

Declaring of Gwalior as B-2 City

11397. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jullundur and Bhopal cities in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, were declared B-2 cities after the State Governments concerned had increased municipal limits by inclusion of adjacent villages in the municipal areas of those cities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that through an extraordinary Gazette No. 104 dated 12th March, 1979, Government of Madhya Pradesh have increased the municipal area of Gwalior town by inclusion of about 75 adjacent villages in the town area enhancing its claims for B-2 city; and

(c) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken by Government to declare Gwalior as B-2 city in near future and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Bhopal has been classified as a B-2 class city, consequent on increase in the municipal area of the city. The addition of the population of the new areas to that of the earlier municipal area of the city, as per 1971 census, made it eligible for upgradation to B-2 class. Jullundur continues to remain classified as a C class city.

(b) and (c). On receipt of the relevant notification of the Madhya Pradesh Government increasing the municipal area of Gwalior, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has been requested to indicate the population as per the 1971 census, of the new areas added to the Gwalior Municipal Corporation. On receipt of his reply, the question of upgradation of the city to B-2 class will be considered.

Selection of Places for Tourist Centres for National Highways

11398. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) details of the places selected in Madhya Pradesh for setting up Tourist Centres on National Highways passing through the States;

(b) whether the selection of these places was in consultation with the State Government;

(c) whether it is not a fact that places so selected are not those proposed by the State Government; and

(d) if so, details of the places proposed by the State Government.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (d). The scheme for developing Tourist villages at selected centres along the national highways is yet to be finalised. The Central Department of Tourism is in the process of formulating a model plan for developing Tourist Villages. These villages would have accommodation of different categories to suit the pocket of all tourists. The other facilities would be a Cafeteria, Rest Rooms, Petrol Pump, a Service Station, Shops for sale of regional handicrafts and perhaps an area for cultural entertainment. The Tourist Villages to be located in Madhya Pradesh will be decided in consultation with the State Government as and when the details of the scheme are finalised.

Revision of decision in regard to Revised Retirement Benefits

11399. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR GODARA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for effecting the revised retirement benefits including

merger of dearness allowance with pay only from 30th September, 1977 benefiting only those who retired in the last eighteen months of the two years of Janata regime; and

(b) whether Government have under consideration to revise the decision to benefit all those who retired on or after the Janata Government took over on March 24, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) The Staff Side of the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) had raised certain demands relating to the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees including merger of dearness allowance with pay with effect from 1-9-1974. As Government was unable to accept the demands, the issues were referred to the Board of Arbitration in accordance with the scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration. Although the matter was referred to arbitration, negotiations were held with the Staff Side to settle the issues outside the Board of Arbitration. As a result, an offer incorporating certain improvements in the dearness allowance and pension schemes was made by Government after taking into account the financial implications and other relevant considerations. This offer which was accepted by the Staff Side, included merger of dearness allowance with pay at average index level 272 with effect from 30-9-1977.

(b) No, Sir.

Amount spent on Marriage of the Son of Chief Priest of Nathdwara

11400. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI SHANKERSINHJI
VAGHELA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:
DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the Times of India dated the 3rd March, 1979 wherein it has been stated that rupees two crores have been spent on the occasion of the marriage of the son of the Chief Priest of Nathdwara temple;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 25,000 devotees witnessed and joined the ceremonies; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the expenditure on this ceremony and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries conducted by the income-tax authorities have revealed that about 10,000 devotees were present in the town for witnessing the marriage ceremony. However, it is further reported that the number of persons who actually participated in the ceremony is estimated at 1000.

(c) Preliminary enquiries have revealed that an estimated amount of Rs. 10 lakhs would have been spent on the marriage ceremony excluding the cost of jewellery and costumes. The Commissioner of Income-tax has reported that since the marriage took place only in March 1979, the expenditure incurred will come up for consideration in the assessment for the assessment year 1980-81. However, the Commissioner of Income-tax has issued instructions to the Income-tax Officer to make necessary enquiries at this stage itself to ascertain the extent of expenditure and the sources thereof.

Industrial Houses/Businessmen/Former Rulers Raided during Emergency

11401. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that big industrial houses/businessmen/former Rulers who were raided during Emergency period in a drive to unearth