

(ग) इस निधि से वस्तुओं से सम्बन्धित ऐसे विभिन्न उपायों को वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी, जिनका उद्देश्य निर्यात आय को बनाये रखना, उसमें स्थिरता लाना तथा सुधार लाना है। पटसन, चाय तथा कोयलर जैसी भारत के निर्यात हित की वस्तुएं ऐसी सहायता की पात्र हो सकती हैं। तथापि, यह तभी संभव हो सकेगा, जब इन वस्तुओं के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वस्तु करार संपन्न हो जायेगा।

**Pension to Government Pensioners**

2979. SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Government Pensioners that due to price spiralling their pensions should be increased; and

(b) whether Government propose to link pension with the cost of living index as was done for employees in service on 1st September, 1977?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To compensate pensioners for the rise in cost of living, the pensioners are allowed relief on pension. The formula for grant of relief on pension was recommended by the Third Pay Commission, and the relief has been granted to all existing pensioners irrespective of the date of retirement. The relief is linked to the consumer price index and is allowed at the rate of 5 per cent of pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 5 and a maximum of Rs. 25 per month, for every 16-point rise in the 12-monthly average of the All India Working Class Consumer Price Index (base 1960—100). So far, 9 instalments of such relief covering average index at the level of 344 points have been granted. This amounts to 45 per cent of pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 45 and a maximum of 225 per month. The quantum of relief is 25 per cent instead of 45 per cent for those who retired on or after 30-9-77 and whose retirement benefits were

calculated after taking into account the dearness allowance merged with pay.

In addition to this graded relief, pre-1.1.73 pensioners have been granted ad hoc relief ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35 per month.

**Development of Coimbatore Airport**

2980. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the Coimbatore Aerodrome for bigger aircraft to land in view of the heavy air traffic; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) It is proposed to acquire land for extension of the runway in the first phase of development of Coimbatore aerodrome for Boeing 737 operations.

**Liabilities of Certificate Holders in Peerless Company**

2981. SHRI MUNDAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of total liabilities of the Certificate holders in "Peerless" Investment and Insurance Company in Government custody;

(b) what amount of this Company is invested in Government Securities and in the Nationalised Banks separately;

(c) what is the total business given by the "Peerless" Company till 1979-80;

(d) what is the security of the money of certificate holders invested in the Company; and

(e) on what ground the Government of Madhya Pradesh has banned "Peerless" to work in that state?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Re-

serve Bank has reported that there is no company named Peerless Investment and Insurance Company. The Hon'ble Member has presumably in mind the Peerless General Finance & Investment Company Ltd. As per published balance sheet of this company, as on 31st December, 1978, the disclosed liabilities of the company to the certificate holders amounted to Rs. 42.08 crores. Figures for 1979 are not yet available.

(b) The total investment of the company in Government securities, Unit Trust of India and fixed deposit with Nationalised Banks, as on 31st December, 1978 amounted to Rs. 44.45 crores. The break up of this amount is as under:—

(i) Fixed deposits with nationalised banks.	Rs. 37.83 crores
(ii) Central & State Government securities.	Rs. 6.46 crores
(iii) Units of the Unit Trust of India	Rs. 0.16 crores.
Total :	Rs. 44.45 crore.

(c) As per the balance sheet of the company, as on 31st December 1978, the business secured by it during the last five years from 1974 to 1978 amounted to Rs. 1033.00 crores. The figures for 1979-80 are not available.

(d) The deposits accepted by the company are unsecured and the depositors stand *pari-passu* with other unsecured creditors.

(e) The conduct of prize chit schemes has been banned under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978 with effect from 12th December, 1978, and the State Governments are vested with the authority to administer the provisions of the Act. The Government of Madhya Pradesh, by its order dated 1st April, 1980, advised the company that its conducting the business was banned in the State under the provisions of the aforesaid Act. Against this order, the company filed a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court and obtained an interim injunction. The case is still pending.

### Advance of Credit by branches of Nationalised Banks in Bihar

2982. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of the branches of nationalised banks in each district of Bihar, the deposit-credit ratio therein and the quantum of credit advanced on preferential rates of interest for self-employment;

(b) whether it is a fact that the branches at Bisfi and some other places under Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar refuse to advance credit for self-employment; and

(c) if not, branch-wise figures on the above lines for branches in these two districts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Available districtwise information regarding the total number of commercial bank branches—in Bihar as at the end of December 1979 and the credit: deposit ratios of all the scheduled commercial banks as at the end of June 1979 is set out in Statement I. Information regarding Public Sector banks' lendings under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme is available only statewide. As at the end of September, 1979 the total outstanding DRI advances of public sector banks in Bihar amounted to Rs. 8.67 crores involving more than 1.67 lakh borrowal accounts.

(b) All public sector bank branches, particularly those in the rural and semi-urban areas are endeavouring to step-up the flow of their credit to priority sectors which include the sectors of small scale industry, transport operators, retail trade and small business and professional and self-employed besides Agriculture and allied activities, which offer opportunity for self-employment ventures.