

(b) Generally the criteria adopted for selection of candidates are their suitability, age, relevance of the training to the organisation in which the candidate is working, and essentiality of the training programme to the economic development of the country.

(c) and (d). A large number of officials are sent abroad for training every year under the Colombo Plan. There was a case in which a permanent official with less than one year's service was sent abroad for training. This official's deputation for training did not involve ignoring the claim of any other officer having longer service, since the nomination documents pertaining to the only other officer sponsored for the course failed to arrive in time.

Conveyance Allowance of Government Officers

7326. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU:
SHRI RATAN SINGH
RAJDA:
ACHARYA BHAGWAN
DEV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India had revised the rates of conveyance allowance of Government Officers in the year 1974 and thereafter there have been appreciable steep rise in the rate of petrol, lubricants, spare parts and labour charges;

(b) if so, why the rates of conveyance allowance for Government Officers have not been increased/revised particularly when the rates of taxis all over India were increased by 25 per cent due to increase in petrol price in the month of March, 1979;

(c) is it also a fact that the local bodies and public undertakings have increased the rates of conveyance allowance by 50 per cent due to second increase in petrol price in August, 1979; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the rates of conveyance allowance for Central Government officers

with retrospective effect particularly when there has been third rise in the petrol price in June, 1980 so as to minimise the sufferings of the Government servants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) The existing rates of conveyance allowance have been applicable from March, 1974 and were prescribed after discussions with the Staff Side in the National Council of the J. C. M. Consequent on the increase in the price of petrol, lubricants, etc. Government examined the question of improving the rates of conveyance allowance. It was, however, decided not to make any change in the existing rates on following considerations:

(i) Since a general cut has been made by the Government in the consumption of petrol in respect of staff cars and operational vehicles, the officers getting the conveyance allowance should be expected to restrict their journeys similarly.

(ii) The existing rates contain an in-built cushion for absorbing the increase in the running cost of vehicles as the rates are prescribed for a slab with a range of 100 to 200 Kms.

(iii) In view of the difficult resources position there is need for strict economy in Government expenditure.

(c) Government have not agreed to any increase in the conveyance allowance of employees of public sector enterprises merely due to increase in petrol price in August, 1979. Any revision of conveyance allowance of these employees has been agreed to normally as part of periodical revision of wages or pay scales and other fringe benefits. The position in respect of local bodies is not known.

(d) The question of improving the rates of conveyance allowance has been raised by the Staff Side in the National Council of the J. C. M. The

matter is likely to be discussed with the Staff Side in the future meetings of that forum.

Air Link with Places of Tourist Interest in Karnataka State

7327. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more places of tourist interest are proposed to be air linked in the near future in the Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction Contract with Iraq by Indian Firms

7328. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian firms bag 155 crores contract from Iraqi authorities for construction of houses and ancillary buildings;

(b) if so, the names of the firms;

(c) whether such contracts have also been made with some other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). As per the information available, 12 Indian firms as detailed in the enclosed list had civil construction contracts in Iraq worth US \$ 758.65 million.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, but the upto-date details are not available.

Statement

List showing the names of Indian firms executing civil construction contracts in Iraq

1. M/s. Dalal Consultants.
2. M/s. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.

3. M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
4. M/s. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.
5. M/s. Som Dutt Builders.
6. M/s. Punjab Chemi-Plant Ltd.
7. M/s. SHIRKE.
8. M/s. Bhandari Builders.
9. M/s. Maker Development Services.
10. M/s. India Tourism Development Corporation.
11. M/s. Triveni structural (Ltd.).
12. M/s. RECONDO (Pvt.) Ltd.

शहरों को दर्जा बढ़ाया जाना

7329. आचार्य भगवान बेवे : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :-

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि 1971 की जनगणना के बाद शहरों की जनसंख्या में शत प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो किसी शहर की वर्तमान जनसंख्या को उसका दर्जा बढ़ाये जाने के लिए आधार के रूप में क्यों नहीं माना जाता?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री मंगन भाई बरोट) (क) यह तथ्य है कि 1971 की जनगणना के बाद अनेक नगरों की जनसंख्या में वृद्धि हुई है। लेकिन वृद्धि को मात्रा व्यापक रूप से भिन्न-भिन्न होगी।

(ख) चूंकि महापंजीयक और भारत के जनगणना आयुक्त द्वारा जनसंख्या के प्रकाशित आंकड़ों को ही केवल प्रमाणिक माना जाता है इस लिए इस प्रयोजन के लिए नगरों का वर्गीकरण उनकी 1971 की जनगणना जनसंख्या के आधार पर किया जाता है लेकिन हाल ही में ऐसे नगर जिनकी 1971 की जनगणना जनसंख्या वर्गीकरण/दर्जा बढ़ाने के लिए न्यूनतम आवश्यक सांख्यिक रूप से कम थी उनको महापंजीयक और भारत के जनगणना आयुक्त द्वारा भेजे गये मध्य जनगणना जनसंख्या के अनुमानों के आधार पर वर्गीकृत किया गया है उनका दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है।

Import of Copra

7330. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Government propose to continue the import of Copra from other countries;