

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). It is a fact that the utilisation of soft-loan-scheme for modernisation and renovation of jute mills is not upto the desired level.

47 Jute mills had applied for assistance under the soft-loan-scheme. 11 of them withdrew their applications. Out of the remaining, 20 units were sanctioned loans to the extent of Rs. 39.19 crores. The cases in regard to remaining 16 are pending due to non-receipt of certain information from them.

The difficulties experienced by the industry in availing of this facility are kept under constant review. It is hoped that the Jute industry will improve their utilisation of the facilities available under this scheme.

Compensatory Allowance to Central Government employees in hill states

758. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment among the Central Government employees who are not getting adequate compensatory allowance in hill States like Himachal Pradesh at par with the State Government employees as it is linked with the height of the place concerned and not with its remoteness or the costliness;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representations in this regard from the Central Government employees or other individuals/associations for giving them hill compensatory allowance at par with the allowance received by the State Government employees;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the likely date by which a decision would be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). Central Government employees posted in different areas of hill States like Himachal Pradesh are granted either hill compensatory allowance or special compensatory (remote locality) allowance. The former allowance is granted with reference to the height of the place and the latter on the basis of remoteness of the region. The rates of these allowances are different from those of similar allowances allowed by the State Government to its employees. Representations have been received from the Central Government employees in Himachal Pradesh that they may be allowed the above allowances at the rates at which these are applicable to State Government employees. Since the Central Government has its own pattern of pay and allowances, it has not been possible to accept the demand of the employees.

अभूक व्यापार निगम गिरिडीह में आग लगना

759. **श्री रीत लाल प्रसाद बर्मा:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अभूक व्यापार निगम के गिरिडीह स्टोर में 1979 में आग लग गई थी और आग में 15 लाख रुपये का अभूक नष्ट हो गया था;

(ख) क्या मरम्मत के नाम पर हजारों रुपयों का दो बार दुर्विनियोग किया गया है;

(ग) क्या अभूक-असाध्य खनिज है; और

(घ) यदि उपरोक्त घटना के बारे में कोई जांच नहीं की गई है तो क्या सरकार का विचार दोषी अधिकारियों को दंडित करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय जांच कराने का है ताकि निगम भविष्य में ऐसे घोटालों से बच सके?