

Restrictions on the Movement of Essential Commodities in the country

2136. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the movement of essential commodities within the country;

(b) if so, the names of such items; and

(c) whether Government are considering to de-canalise these articles so that they will be available in each and every corner of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Necessary information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Re-assessment Proceedings against Central Excise Officers, Kanpur

2137. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 11457 on 18th May 1979 regarding complaints for reassessment of income of some Central Excise Officers of Kanpur Collectorate and state what is the result of enquiry and investigation made in the matter of reassessment proceedings against some Central Excise Officers of Kanpur Collectorate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth of Industry in Eastern Region

2138. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Eastern region where most of the mineral and other wealth of the country is found, is decaying economically;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to abolish the equalisation of freight with regard to steel and coal for the growth of industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Payment of Compensatory (City) Allowance to Central Government Employees

2139. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the recommendation of the 3rd Pay Commission for the payment of compensatory (City) allowance in abnormally expensive places to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) names of the admissible cities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). In para 14, Chapter 56, of their report, the Third Pay Commission had recommended consideration on merits of cases of abnormally expensive places like State Capitals, pilgrim centres, etc. for the payment of Compensatory (City) Allowance to the Central Government employees working there, even though these places did not satisfy the population criterion. On the basis of the studies of comparative costliness of certain cities undertaken by the Central Statistical Organisation and the Labour Bureau, the following 14 cities were adjudged abnormally expensive and Compensatory (City) Allowance at B-2 class rates has been sanctioned to the Central Government employees posted there with effect from 1-8-79:

1. Asansol
2. Durgapur

3. Rourkela
4. Meerut
5. Gauhati
6. Nasik
7. Goa
8. Bhillai
9. Jammu
10. Alwaye
11. Vijayawada
12. Bhavanagar
13. Ajmer
14. Rajkot.

National Air Safety Board

2140. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aviation experts have demanded setting up of an independent National Air Safety Board; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The question of setting up an independent Air Accident Investigation Commission was examined and it was decided not to set up a separate agency but to constitute a Standing Panel of Experts to assist investigation in serious air accidents.

Upgradation of Bhubaneshwar Airport as International Airport

2141. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade the Bhubaneshwar airport as "International Airport"; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be upgraded?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Payment of family pension to Central Government Officers absorbed in Public Undertaking

2142. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government officers who after putting in more than 30 years of service are absorbed in a Public Undertaking of the Government of India are granted pension for the service rendered in the Government Department after deducting 2 months pay towards family pension as it existed in 1973;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite the recovery of 2 months pay, they are precluded from the benefit of pension in the event of their getting full commuted value of the pension, as sanctioned by the Government Department in which they last served;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps which Government propose to take to afford relief of family pension payment to this category of Officers in the event of their death?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) As per extant orders the benefit of family pension is admissible to the families of those permanent Central Government employees who had rendered not less than 10 years qualifying service and were allowed pro-rata pension at the time of their permanent absorption. Deduction of 2 months' pay as contribution towards family pension was previously required in those