

years or so as Consultants in different fields on payments of fabulous fees without obtaining approval of competent authority; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that officers thus appointed did not obtain permission of competent authority for accepting such assignments;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such officers have been extended travel facilities and paid for more than what is permissible to them under the Rules;

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the officers who made wrong appointments, and allowed payments far in excess of the entitlements; and

(e) whether it is also proposed to take action against the retired Government Officers who accepted these appointments at fees to which they were not entitled to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. There have been two cases of appointment of retired officers of the Board as Consultants and in both cases approval of competent authority was obtained.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Remands of Class I officers of L.I.C.

4560. SHRI G. M. BANATWALA:  
SHRI JAIPAL SINGH  
KASHYAP:

Will the FINANCE MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Class I Officers of the L.I.C. went on mass casual leave on 28th November, 1980.

(b) if so, demands of class I Officers; and

(c) Government's decision thereon and steps taken for implementation of earlier assurances; if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). The L.I.C. Management has reported that a large number of Class I Officers were on casual leave on 28-11-80. Their main demands are as under:—

(i) Revision of pay scales etc. and

(ii) Removal of anomalies between the emoluments of Officers and clerical staff.

In response to the demands of the Class I Officers, the management of the L.I.C. has offered concrete proposals which contain substantial improvements in their pay scales and other terms and conditions of service.

Steps to popularise Darjeeling

4561. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Darjeeling is one of the best tourist centres in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have any concrete proposal to make it more attractive for foreign as well as domestic tourists by allotting adequate fund to the State Government of West Bengal for providing better amenities like cheaper hotels, transport, better road communications and beautifications of some of the selected spots; and

(c) whether Government are also considering proposals for advertising and popularising Darjeeling in the tourist map of India displayed in all the Capitals of States, Railway Stations, Airports and other prominent places of our country as well as in our embassies in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No funds are allocated by the Central Department of Tourism to the State Governments for the deve-