

ing is affecting both the categories of employees;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the financial outlay involved in extending to the Central Government pensioners the same concessions in relation to Interim Relief as applicable to the serving personnel with effect from 1st April, 1970 without involving any payment of arrears; and

(d) do Government propose considering sympathetically the pensioners plight by granting them the same interim relief as paid to the serving personnel; and if not, the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir. An instalment of Dearness Allowance to service employees is given for every eight-point rise in the 12-monthly average of the consumer price index; an instalment of relief to pensioners is allowed for every 16-point rise in that index.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Some broad assessment has been made. Since, however, the dearness allowance to serving employees and relief to pensioners are both based on the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission, no change therein has been considered necessary.

Complaints about Appointment of GSA by Air India

4688. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) have complaints been made about the appointment of General Sales Agents by Air India and its functioning;

(b) if so, what is the nature of complaints;

(c) has any probe been conducted regarding those complaints; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received about appointment of GSAs in U.K., Canada, West Germany and Thailand. The complaints mainly referred to:

(1) The validity of such appointments; and

(2) Whether such appointments would affect the relationship between Air-India and the IATA Agents.

(c) and (d). Air-India has looked into these complaints and set up a Committee to review the functioning of its General Sales Agents throughout the world. However, so far the appointment of GSA at U.K. & Canada is concerned, complaints were made by the parties who were not selected as GSA; the IATA approved travel agent in Thailand had expressed apprehension as to the future relationship with Air-India, but was assured that despite the appointment, Air-India would provide the same facilities as in the past.

Findings of CBI Inquiry to unearth the ticket racket for Bombay-Cochin Airline

4689. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Indian Airlines that a number of officials of the Airport Authority, Indian Air Lines and Santacruz Police were allegedly involved in the illegal sale of Bombay-Cochin air tickets particularly to Gulf passengers;

(b) if so, whether it is true that the Indian Air Lines has sought the help of the CBI to unearth the tickets racket; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the CBI inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). A few months back, some complaints were received alleging malpractices in sale of tickets in which, among others, certain Airlines personnel were also reported to have been involved.

In order to eradicate this menace, Indian Airlines recently lodged a complaint with CBI, Delhi. CBI, Delhi, after making necessary enquiries have in one of their attempts, arrested one of the touts while accepting a premium of Rs. 100 and a case has also been registered. CBI have also made certain suggestions such as display of number of seats available, change in the reservation systems, Airport Entry tickets being issued for a specific period instead of for the whole day, etc.

Appointment of Private Agencies as Liaison Agents for N.T.C.

4690. **SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Kumar Textiles, Bombay are acting as liaison agents for NTC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no other private agency has been engaged for this purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose considering appointing other private agencies as was being done previously when M/s. Vardwan Textiles were also acting as their liaison agents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) This firm is acting as Agents for some of the NTC Subsidiary Companies.

(b) and (c). Some of the NTC Subsidiaries have service Agents other than M/s. Kumar Textiles also.

(d) No, Sir. Agents are appointed by NTC Subsidiaries and not by Government.

Improvement of Navigational aids at Civil and Defence Aerodromes

4691. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to immediately improve navigational aids at civil aerodromes and airports to improve safety standards and help to economise on fuel; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Subject to availability of resources Civil Aviation Department have plans to augment/modernise the navigational aids at civil aerodromes and airports and other locations on air routes, during the Sixth Plan 1980—85 to improve safety standards and help economise on fuel. It is proposed to instal more Very High Frequency Omni Range, Distance Measuring Equipment, Non Directional Beacons, and Air Routes Surveillance Radars. The Airport Surveillance Radar at Bombay airport is proposed to be replaced by a more sophisticated and modern equipment. The existing Air Route surveillance Radar at Bombay airport is also proposed to be modernised. In order to ensure safety of aircraft during landing phase it is proposed to provide some additional Instrument Landing System. The existing Instrument Landing System at Gauhati and Hyderabad are being replaced by modern equipment.

Harassment of SC/ST Employees by N.T.C. Management

4692. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SC/ST officers/employees are being harassed