

log of infrastructural handicaps, industrial unrest and several other constraints. Factors affecting industrial production have been receiving keen attention at the highest level and appropriate remedial measures have been taken to remove various constraints. Utmost emphasis has been laid on optimum utilisation of existing capacity and serious efforts have been made from the beginning of 1980 to ease the infrastructural bottlenecks. In terms of the Industrial Policy Statement of July 1980, a number of measures have been taken to stimulate industrial production.

According to the provisional index of industrial production compiled by CSO, the growth rate during April—October 1980 over April—October 1979 was about 0.5 per cent and the index for October 1980 was 8.9 per cent higher than in April 1980. Production of selected industries for which provisional information is available, shows an overall rise of 11 per cent in January 1981 over the same month last year.

Special Compensatory Allowance to Defence Personnel in Gangtok

3047. SHRI SURAJ BHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Compensatory Allowance was granted by the Government of India to Defence Service Personnel at the rate of 30 per cent of their basic pay within the Municipal limits of Gangtok city in Sikkim during early 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the local Army Commander has curtailed the Municipal limits of Gangtok city for army record only, thereby depriving thousands of lower rank army personnel from the said Special Compensatory Allowance;

(c) if so, whether the local Army Commander is competent to take such a step and the reasons for taking this anti-staff decision; and

(d) whether Government propose taking necessary action to set aside the curtailment orders and make necessary payment to the aggrieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Special Compensatory Allowance was admissible to personnel below officer rank at the rate of Rs. 15/- to Rs. 35/- per month as part of full field service concession. Gangtok was on full field service concession till 1-1-1978 when it was scaled down to modified field service concessions. Special Compensatory Allowance is not admissible with modified field service concession and was therefore withdrawn from troops located at Gangtok with effect from 1-1-1978. These troops were, however, made eligible for Sikkim Compensatory Allowance with effect from 1-1-1979.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Hilli Check Post

3048. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the check-post at Hilli between India and Bangladesh in West Dinajpur District of West Bengal is in international;

(b) how many Indians and Bangladeshis crossed the border daily on an average in each month during the last one year and how many foreign nationals crossed the border during the last year;

(c) the number of personnel of various categories in charge of the Indian check-post;

(d) whether there is any arrangement for waiting room and rest room for the intending visitors to Bangladesh;

(e) if not, whether Government have any plan to construct a building to remove these difficulties; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Customs Office is also very small though there is space for expansion; if so, whether Government propose to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 128 persons (both Indian and Bangladesh) crossed over the border daily on an average basis in each month during the last one year and 20 foreign nationals crossed over the border last year;

(c) There is one Sub-Inspector, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and six Constables. S. P. West Dinajpur holds the overall charge of the check post;

(d) There is no waiting room for the intending visitors to Bangladesh;

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In addition to the Customs check post at Hilli, there is a regular Customs Office also. The check-post and the Customs Office are not considered to be inadequate at present;

Settlement of Problems of Central Government Employees

3049. **SHRI E. BALANANDAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees are for bilateral discussion and settlement of their problems; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to initiate bilateral discussion on the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration is one of the important instrument for bilateral discussion with the object of, *inter-alia*, promoting harmonious relations, securing the greatest measure of cooperation between the Government and the general body of its employees and increasing the efficiency of public services, through the Joint Councils at the National, Departmental and Office/Regional levels, where the representatives of the Government employees and the Officials meet together and settle the problems through bilateral discussion.

Allotment of Bajaj Chetak Scooters

3050. **SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bajaj Chetak Scooters were allotted against foreign currency deposited in banks by the Government in the past;

(b) whether this practice is still in vogue;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that persons who registered their names in banks by depositing their advances in foreign currency have not been allotted scooters as yet; and

(e) if so, the number of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). With the rescinding of the Scooters (Sale and Distribution) Control Order, with effect from 1-1-1978 Bajaj Chetak Scooters are allotted against inward remittance of foreign exchange by the manufacturers directly.

(d) and (e). The manufacturers have reported that presently there is