

(b) The question of the wholesale price index figure being false did not arise. However, some of the trade union leaders expressed their concern regarding increase in the consumer price index which reflected the cost of living of industrial workers.

(c) and (d). Government is not complacent about the price situation and has taken several measures to keep the inflationary pressures under check and also to protect the earnings of the workers, particularly in the organised sector, through payment of dearness allowance etc. It may also be noted that in December 1981 and January 1982, the consumer price index has shown a decline.

Bills pending before Pay and Accounts Offices at Delhi

5386. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of bills pending before the Pay and Accounts Offices at Delhi for various Ministries, etc., working under the Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance for more than one year, facts in details with break-up of that from the public sector and private sector;

(b) same for more than five years;

(c) percentages of the total bills of the public sector and private sector cleared by the Pay and Accounts Offices in the last five years;

(d) whether it is a fact that private parties get their bills paid quickly than the public sector;

(e) whether it is a fact that the practices associated with the process of payment has put the public sector to a disadvantage; and

(f) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). There are no bills outstanding for payment for more than one year in the Pay

and Accounts Offices at Delhi. However, 2548 bills have been kept pending in the Pay and Accounts Office attached to the Department of Supply for more than one year on specific instructions received from the indentors, consignees or from the Director General, Supplies and Disposals.

(c) Separate record of bills received from the private sector and public sector are not maintained by the Pay and Accounts Offices. Collection of the information required will necessitate review of all bills running into several lakhs presented at the Pay and Accounts Offices during the last five years. It is considered that the time and labour involved in the collection of this information will not be commensurate with the result likely to be achieved.

(d) No. Bills submitted for payment by private parties and public sector undertakings are treated alike in the Pay and Accounts Offices.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Finance Minister's Discussions with Industrialists

5387. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of February, the Union Finance Minister and a group of industrialists had long discussions in which the industrialists expressed concern at the industrial relations climate and they have also pointed out that in the western region of the country in particular it had sharply deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister had a meeting among others with industrialists at which various aspects of the economic situation were discussed and several important points and suggestions were made.

One of the participants did refer to the deterioration in labour relations situation particularly in the Western Region. As the discussions were informal, the question of taking decisions in the meeting did not arise.

News Item "Cash Option for L.T.C. Mooted"

5388. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "cash option for LTC mooted" appearing in the "Indian Express" of 22 February, 1982 highlighting (i) running of 350 special trains to accommodate travelling on L.T.C.; (ii) Paranjape Committee's recommendation to ease pressure on goods train and to reduce secretariat work in processing LTC applications; (iii) complaints on the misuse of the concession and floating of benami transporters; and (iv) desire of the Railways and Planning Commission to give cash option etc., etc.;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Railways run a large number of special trains in order to clear rush of traffic during summer and winter breaks from important stations, which are also used by employees travelling on LTC. Government have issued detailed instructions to the controlling authorities to ensure strict scrutiny of LTC claims before their acceptance. Government have not taken a final view on Paranjape Committee's recommendation and Planning Commission's suggestion to give an option to the employees to draw cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession.

Acquisition/Disposal of Immovable Property by Civilians, working in INS India

5389. SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no Government servant shall, except with the previous knowledge of the prescribed authority, acquire or dispose of any immovable property by lease, mortgage, purchase, sale, gift, or otherwise either in his name or in the name of any member of his family;

(b) if so, whether any cases of violation of the said orders in INS India by the civilian working therein have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, details thereof, together with action taken against the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of 20-Point Programme by Commercial Banks

5390. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have sent directions to the Reserve Bank of India and other Commercial Banks for implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme;

(b) if so, whether any working group has been proposed to be set up for supervising the proper implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme; and

(c) the details about the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken for the proper implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme by commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Public sector banks have been progressively giving more attention to meet the credit needs of weaker sections, including beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme. Cer-