

Flood Relief

2001. Shri S. A. Mehdi: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of aid given to Bengal, Orissa and Assam for construction of houses in the flood affected areas; and

(b) if so, on what terms these amounts will be distributed to the affected people in these regions?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No aid has so far been given to any of these States for the purpose during the current year.

(b) The normal procedure is that the State Governments render assistance to the affected people according to their judgement and seek reimbursement from the Central Government under the scheme of Central assistance to States for natural calamities. A copy of the letter addressed to the State Governments outlining the pattern of such assistance was placed on the Table of the House on the 3rd March 1958 along with the answer to Unstarred Question No. 787. The pattern provides for sharing of expenditure by the Central and State Governments in respect of amounts spent on repairs of houses damaged by floods upto a maximum of Rs. 300 per house.

Voluntary Corps

2002. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to increase the strength of voluntary forces of Home Guards; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The Home Guard Organisations, wherever they are set up, are under the administrative control of the State Governments and are their responsibility. The strength of the organisation as

originally set up and its increase are matters for consideration by the State Governments.

Ancient Monuments in Jammu and Kashmir

2003. Shri P. G. Deb: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken over maintenance of the protected ancient monuments in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, their location; and

(c) the amount earmarked for their upkeep during 1959-60?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 102].

(c) Rs. 39,000.

House Rent and Compensatory Allowances

2004. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cities like Madurai and Tuticorin etc. have been up-graded after the receipt of the Pay Commission's Report, for the purpose of House Rent and Compensatory Allowances;

(b) if so, the number and names of cities so up-graded; and

(c) if not, the time by which the list will be finalised?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Commission have recommended that the present system of classification of cities on the basis of the population should continue, and it would not be advisable to make a general review until 1961 when the next decennial census is due. The next review will, therefore, be undertaken when the 1961 census figures become available.