

(c) have the depositors sought the intervention of the Prime Minister in the matter; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) to (d) A number of complaints had been received by the Government as well as Reserve Bank of India regarding the Sahara Deposits and Investment (India) Limited. A representation was also addressed to Prime Minister alleging cheating of public depositors by the company by non-payment of matured deposits. Reserve Bank of India held that the activities of the company come within the purview of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. Accordingly they advised the Delhi Administration to take appropriate action in the matter. Delhi Administration is now seized of the matter. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police is reported to have arrested Chairman and some other officers of the company for alleged cheating of its depositors all over the country.

Crisis in Indian Projects in Iraq

2315. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian companies engaged in various projects in Iraq and the number of Indian workers employed by them;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian firms and contractors are facing difficulty due to delay in payment of the foreign exchange component of their salaries and they will be forced to leave Iraq due to financial squeeze; and

(c) how do Government propose to help to ease the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A.

SANGMA) : (a) The Indian companies participating in civil engineering and construction projects abroad are screened by a Screening Committee of the Engineering Export Promotion Council for their competence, resources and capability to function in the international markets. Apart from this, the Indian companies are required to obtain prior clearance of the Working Group of Export-Import (EXIM) Bank before tendering for all sorts of project contracts, excepting pure service contracts, of a value exceeding Rs. 1 crore. The Working Group also clears contracts of Rs. 1 crore or less if they have any unusual features. The above general criteria also apply for Indian companies under-taking Projects in Iraq. Broadly, about 25,000 workers are employed by Indian companies executing projects in Iraq.

(b) and (c) It is correct that Indian construction companies are facing difficulties due to delay in payment of their bills on the ongoing works of Iraqi projects. An Indian delegation visited Iraq between 25th of July and 3rd of August, 1983 and negotiated an arrangement with the Government of Iraq for funding the ongoing Indian projects. As such, withdrawal of the Indian companies from the Iraq, projects is not contemplated.

Incentives for Export Oriented Units

2316. SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries has called for further modification of the incentive package particularly in respect of duty free imports of capital goods and sale of rejects with a view to making the 100 per cent export oriented unit scheme viable; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Electronics Complexes at Chandigarh, Sultanpur and Garhwal

2317. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selecting the sites for three electronics complexes at Chandigarh, Sultanpur and Gharwal in U.P. and

(a) what is the distance of Chandigarh, Sultanpur and Garhwal from the border of Pakistan, as the crow flies ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) Relevant factors such as techno-economic considerations, availability of infra-structural facilities, development of backward areas, etc., were taken into consideration while selecting the sites for the three electronic units at Panchkula, near Chandigarh in Haryana, Sultanpur and Garhwal in U.P.

(b) The distance of Chandigarh, Sultanpur and Garhwal from the Pakistan border as the crow flies is 191 KM, 898 KM and 348 KM. respectively.

Interim Relief for Railway Employees

2318. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE :

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Railwaymen's Federation has urged the Government to pay an interim relief of Rs. 150/- per month; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) and (b) The staff side of the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) had demanded parity of the scales of pay of Central Government employees with public sector pay scales and pending acceptance of this demand an interm relief of Rs. 150/- per month to all Group 'C'. and Group 'D' employees of the Central Government. After discussions with the staff side the Government have decided to pay Interim Relief to all Central Government employees (including Railway employees) at the following rates with effect from 1.6.1983.

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|--|---------------|
| (i) Employees drawing pay below Rs. 300/- per month | Rs. 50/- p.m. |
| (ii) Employees drawing pay of Rs. 300 and above but below Rs. 700/- per month. | Rs. 60/-p m. |
| (iii) Employees drawing pay of Rs. 700 and above but below Rs. 1600/- p.m. | Rs. 70/-p.m. |
| (iv) Employees drawing pay Rs. 1600 and above but below Rs. 2250/- p.m. | Rs. 80/-p.m. |
| (v) Employees drawing pay of Rs. 2250/- per month and above | Rs. 100/-p.m. |

Orders in this regard have have issued.

Export of Paddy Seeds

2319. SHRI R.N. RAKESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether paddy seeds are being exported outside India and if so, details of such exports for the last three years by Government and private agencies (B.S. 24.6.83);