

(d) the approximate amounts so far booked upto 31 March, 1984 on account of revision of pension arrears against the budgetary provision of Rs 234 crores made in the last year's budget ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c). Orders issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Defence implementing the judgement of the Supreme Court involved revision of pension of more than one million pensioners. Anticipating the likely difficulties of revising pensions of such a large number of pensioners with reference to the service records, ready reckoners have been issued for expeditious calculation of pensions. Pension Disbursing Offices like Branches of the Nationalised Banks, Post Offices and Treasuries have been instructed to calculate the pension with reference to the ready reckoners in respect of those pensioners who opt for the revision of their pension in this manner. In regard to the pensioners who choose to get their pension revised with reference to actual service records, locating of such records may take some time as a large number of pensioners would have retired more than a decade ago. Government is fully aware of the hardship caused to pensioners by such delays and instructions have repeatedly been issued to the concerned authorities for expeditious settlement of cases for revision of pension. It would, however, be difficult to lay down a target date for completion of the work of revision of pension considering the large number of pension disbursing authorities and pensioners involved throughout the country.

(d) The expenditure on account of the payment of arrears after the revision of pension upto 31.3.1984 would be available after the Government Accounts are finally closed after a few months.

Outpricing India in Carpet-Backing Cloth and in Hessian by Bangladesh

2953. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that neither in carpet-backing cloth nor in hessian, Indian Exporters are able to match the prices quoted by Bangladesh in the foreign market ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the situation arising from Bangladesh outpricing Indian in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). While cost of production in India is on the increase due to rise in raw material prices and wages payable to the workers, Bangladesh is in an advantageous position vis-a-vis India in quoting more competitive rates for jute products in foreign markets because of better quality of raw jute at cheaper prices, comparatively lower per unit labour cost in jute mills and more favourable exchange rate.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to improve exports of our jute goods :

(i) Enhanced rates of Cash Compensatory Support for jute goods have been announced including hessian and CBC effective from 9-5-1984.

(ii) A consortium has also been formed between STC and the exporting mills for exports of CBC to USA on 50 : 50 loss sharing basis.

(iii) 100% export Oriented Units have been set up.

(iv) The Jute Manufacturers Development Council has been reconstituted and higher rates of cess have been imposed on production of jute goods under two separate Acts for financing effective R and D programmes and market promotion of jute goods.

Task Force to Look into the Development of Tea Machinery

2954. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken at the Engineering Symposium Organised by the Tea Research Association that the Tea Board should constitute a Task Force to look into the development of tea machinery ;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has been constituted ;

(c) if so, its composition and when it will start functioning ; and

(d) the details of the work to be handled by the Task Force and how far it will be helpful for the betterment of tea industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) to (d). On the basis of recommendations made at the Engineering Symposium organised by the Tea Research Association, Tea Board have set up a Task Force to look into the development of tea machinery. Composition of the Task Force is as under :

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| 1. Shri J. Khattar,
Chairman, Tea Board | Chairman |
| 2. Shri R.K. Tripathy,
Dy. Chairman, Tea Board | Member |
| 3. Shri Yunus Ahmed,
Scientist Process Development and Design Discipline, Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore | " |
| 4. Shri T.C. Barooah,
Head, Research Engineering Toolkal Experimental Station | " |
| 5. Dr. B.C. Bishna,
Scientist, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur | " |
| 6. Dr. A. Mukherjee,
Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT, Kharagpur | " |

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| 7. Shri R.C. Punshi,
Calcutta | Member |
| 8. Shri Anik Palchoudhuri,
Small Tools Manufacturing Co. of India Ltd.,
Calcutta | " |
| 9. Dr. K.K. Mitra,
Director (Research),
Tea Board | Member-Secy. |

The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows :

- (i) To study the scope for application of improved machines/mechanical aids for field operations such as pruning, skiffing, plucking, fertiliser application, spraying of pesticides and fungicides etc. aimed at reducing the cost increasing the output and improving the labour productivity.
- (ii) To study the efficiency of the hot air generation systems currently used for withering and drying operations and to indicate possible methods of improving upon their efficiency.
- (iii) To study the operations of the various items of tea machinery employed for withering, rolling, fermentation, drying, sorting and stalk separation and to suggest lines for improvement of their designs for achieving : (a) increased output, (b) reduction in energy consumption ; and (c) conversion of batch wise systems into continuous and semi-automated systems.
- (iv) To study the scope for introduction of instrumentation at different stages of manufacture of tea for effective monitoring and control of the processes.
- (v) To indicate the possibility of utilising in tea manufacture some of the machines of the type used in other food processing industries.
- (vi) Any other aspect which in the

opinion of the Task Force is germane to the Board purpose of the study.

First meeting of the Task Force was held on 8th August, 1984.

Staff Strength of National Savings Organisation in Assam

2955. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The present staff strength of the National Savings Organisation in Assam ;

(b) whether the field staff strength of Assam conform with the staff strength of other Southern States, taking per capita collection as basis ; and

(c) whether vehicles supplied to the National Savings Organisation have also been provided with drivers to ply them and the number of vehicles that are lying idle for want of driver ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The National Savings Organisation, Assam region, consists of the States of Assam, Nagaland and the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The present sanctioned staff strength of the National Savings Organisation is one Regional Director, 3 Assistant Regional Directors, 20 District Savings Officers and 29 other staff.

(b) The strength of the District Savings Officers is generally fixed on the basis of population and other factors such as savings potential, geographical area, etc. The field staff strength for Assam region broadly conforms with staff strength of Southern States.

(c) Vehicles supplied to the National Savings Organisation are also provided with drivers to ply them. For the Assam region there are four sanctioned posts of drivers for the four vehicles in the region. Out of these four posts two are at present vacant but the vehicles are run by employing

drivers on daily wages from time to time till regular drivers are recruited.

Accommodation to Field Officers of National Savings Organisation in Assam

2956. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the District Savings Officers of the National Savings Organisation in Assam region are not provided with accommodation ;

(b) if so, the policy behind it ;

(c) whether Government propose to have a permanent office for the National Savings Organisation for the task of mobilising of resources for plan ; and

(d) the steps Government contemplate for providing residential accommodation to the field officers of National Savings Organisation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Assam Region of the National Savings Organisation covers the States of Assam, Nagaland and Union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Out of 12 District Savings Officers in Assam region as on 31.7.84, seven have been provided with office accommodation.

Efforts are being made in consultation with the State Governments to provide office accommodation to the remaining 5 District Savings Officers.

(c) The National Savings Organisation has a permanent Central Office.

(d) Wherever Government residential accommodation from the General Pool for Central Government employees is available, Field Officers of the National Savings Organisation are eligible for allotment of residential accommodation. In places where Central Government residential accommodation is not available, the Field Officers of the National Savings Organisation have