

by State Governments to supplement the resources for these programmes by providing additional funds so that larger employment programmes could be undertaken in the States.

Payment of Military Area Allowance to Central Government, State Government and Semi-Government Organisations Employees

807a. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of cities in India where military area allowance is being given to the employees of the Central Government, State Government and Semi-Government Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): No allowance known as military area allowance has been sanctioned by the Government of India in respect of their employees. No information is available whether any such allowance has been sanctioned by the State Government or by Semi-Government Organisations.

Service conditions of Employees and Artistes of Song and Drama Division

8080. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for improving the service conditions of the various grades of employees and artistes of the Song and Drama Division, if so, the main features thereof;

(b) whether Government's considerations are based on the long-standing demands of the employees in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the nature of the demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM

BIR SINHA): (a) to (c). In so far as regular staff of Song and Drama Division is concerned, no proposals for improving their service conditions are under consideration, as the staff is governed by the service conditions applicable to all other Central Government servants. As regards Staff Artistes of the Division a number of proposals for improving their service conditions were accepted by the Government in the past. At present, the following two proposals are under consideration of the Government:—

- (1) Prescription of time scale of fee to Staff Artists under Board Publicity Scheme—At present the Staff Artistes engaged under the Board Publicity Scheme get a consolidated fee plus usual allowances thereon. It has been proposed that they should instead be given time scales of fees like other Staff Artistes of the Division.
- (2) Rationalisation of fee scales of Staff Artistes—It has been decided that the National Productivity Council should carry out a job evaluation in respect of various categories of Staff Artistes of the Division with a view to rationalising their fee scales.

Development of Sericulture in Manipur

8081. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a particular species of silk worm can feed only on Oak Leaves which are in plenty in Manipur?

(b) if so, the steps taken to utilise the vast resources of Oak leave in Manipur for the development of Sericulture; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to make a thorough study of the

matter with particular reference to material resources and employment prospects of the industry in Manipur?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise

Statement

The following steps have been taken to utilise the vast resources of oak leaves in Manipur for development of sericulture industry

1 The Central Tasar Research Station, Ranchi has conducted research and evolved a hybrid race of tasar silkworm which can be reared on oak plantations

2 A project for effective exploitation of nature-grown oak plantation available in Manipur for purposes of rearing of tasar cocoons has been prepared by the Central Silk Board. The project envisages a total outlay of Rs 818 crores over a period of six years. It aims at achieving an annual production of 510 lakh kg of tasar silk by the end of the 6th year. The project would generate full-time employment for 9144 persons and part-time employment for over one lakh persons. About 36,000 farmers in 300 villages will come within the purview of the project scheme

3. Government have approved the strengthening of Research Sub-Station at Imphal for providing necessary facilities for training about 600 persons to man the Manipur Oak Tasar Project

Special Allocations for Comprehensive Development of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura

8082. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether special allocations are being considered for the new States of the North Eastern Area, namely, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura to enable them to take up a comprehensive development scheme and, if so, the amount proposed to be allocated to each of them;

(b) whether Governments of those States have made special requests to the Central Government in this behalf, if so, the nature of the requests made, and

(c) whether Government propose to convene the North Eastern Council to consider this aspect at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) The Annual Plans for 1973-74 for the various States including those of the North-Eastern area have already been finalized. The outlays approved for the States of the North Eastern region are given in the attached statement

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the North Eastern Council Act 1971, it is for the Chairman of the Council to convene such meetings.

Statement

(Rs. crores)

1973-74 Approved Outlay	
Assam	82.97
Manipur	8.91
Meghalaya	12.00
Nagaland	11.00
Tripura	12.00
Arunachal Pradesh	4.39
Mizoram.	6.00