

the period January-September, 1973;

(b) the effect of such fall of value of rupee on various deposits, securities and pensions drawn by the retired Government employees;

(c) whether Government propose to compensate in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (d). The fall in the value of the rupee between January-September, 1973 was the result of an unusual spurt in price level during this period on account of the severe drought experienced in 1972-73, and this trend is likely to be reversed with production levels picking up in the economy in the current year. Government is aware that this has affected one and all, but more so the fixed income groups including pensioners. To mitigate the hardship experienced by this Group, Government has already accepted the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission to the effect that Central Government servants retiring from service should be given, irrespective of the amount of pension drawn by them, relief at the rate of 5% of their pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 5.00 p.m. and a maximum of Rs. 25.00 p.m. as and when there is a 16 points rise in the 12 monthly average of All India Working Class Consumer Price Index (1960=100), the relief for the first time at those rates being payable when the 12 monthly average of this increase reaches 216. For the present, this recommendation of the Commission has been accepted in respect of Class II, III and IV employees and will have effect from 1-1-1973. Government is also considering a proposal for grant of some relief to persons who retired prior to 1st January, 1973.

It is not possible to estimate the effect of the fall in the value of financial assets held by pensioners since no data are available about the holdings of such assets by them and even so, this is a factor which would have affected all investors in financial assets alike. Moreover, since pensioners are also found to invest in land and buildings and other physical assets from their savings, there has been considerable appreciation in the value of such assets. However, Government has no

proposal to compensate pensioners for any loss they might have sustained on their financial assets as a result of a fall in the value of the rupee.

Rise in prices of consumer goods

5803. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest trends about price-rise of consumer's goods;

(b) whether price in case of some consumer's goods have been (i) established and in other cases (ii) risen;

(c) if so, the facts thereabout;

(d) whether Government expects favourable trends about prices of consumer's goods in near future; and

(e) the steps taken by Government as latest measures, regarding controlling of price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c). A statement showing the monthly Wholesale price indices for Selected Commodities between August and November, 1973 is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6093/73].

(d) and (e). The good kharif crop and the favourable prospects for rabi this year are expected to have a moderating effect on prices. The Government has, for its part, been taking all possible steps to augment supplies of essential commodities and to curb excess demand in the economy. A better balance between aggregate demand and aggregate supply will also help in stabilising prices.

Relaxation of age limits for Tamluk Freedom Fighters Association for employment in Banking Institutions, L.I.C. and Ministry of Finance

5804. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamluk Freedom Fighters' Association in letter No. 3/2/73-FF/11 dated the 12th April, 1973 from the Ministry of Home Affairs was *inter-alia* informed that "The State Government have allowed liberal concession to freedom fighters and their families in regard to relaxa-

tions of age limits and other concessions";

(b) whether the Central Government have also granted similar concessions to Central Government employees who are freedom fighters;

(c) if so, the facts about relaxation of age limits and other concessions made in regard to L.I.C. employees, employees of Banking institutions and other employees attached to his Ministry;

(d) the nature of benefits received by the Central Government employees of his Ministry and their number;

(e) if not, whether Government propose to review the issues further; and

(f) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). (i) In L.I.C. an employee who had undergone imprisonment for political reasons prior to 15th August, 1947 for a period exceeding 5 years may be considered for re-appointment after his normal retirement. He will be re-appointed for a period not exceeding one year at a time, subject to a maximum of 3 years in all. On such re-appointment the employee would be offered the same salary as he drew on the date of normal retirement.

The concession would not be available to an employee in whose case either the total period of detention was less than 5 years or the total service in the LIC upto the date of normal retirement was not less than 25 years. (ii) So far as Public Sector Banks are concerned, the matter is under consideration.

A statement indicating the concessions granted to Central Government employees is enclosed. The number of such employees is not readily available.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Such of the Freedom Fighters who had been removed, discharged or dismissed from service on account of their patriotic activities or their participation in national movements designed to secure the independence of the country, or who resigned their appointments out of patriotic motives or in order to participate in the national movements were made eligible for re-employment under the Government of India (but not reinstatement, unless in any case this had already been ordered). On re-employment, they were also allowed to count the period of interruption in service for increments in pay at the rate of one increment for every 3 years of break in service and carry forward of the leave on average pay at their credit on the date of their discharge etc. Further, in April, 1953, orders were issued that the past temporary service rendered by such an employee would, on his re-employment, be treated as 'qualifying service' to the extent permissible under the orders issued by the Government, for the purpose of pension. It was also decided in May, 1957, to count the past service, as well as the period of break in service before re-employment, for the purpose of seniority. The orders further provide that retrospective confirmations and promotions which became due on the basis of the revised seniority should be awarded after national assessment of suitability. No such retrospective confirmation or promotion was, however, to be allowed from dates earlier than the date of re-entry into public service. Government servants whose income is less than Rs. 5,000.00 per annum are also eligible for grant of pension under the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme, 1972, if they fulfill the other conditions laid down in that Scheme.

Terms and Conditions for using Air India Planes by Indian Airlines during Lock out

5805. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions for using the services of Air India planes by Indian Airlines during the lock out period; and

(b) the extra expenditure incurred therefor and income made therefrom?