

of coir products during April-September, 1973 and corresponding period of 1972 is indicated below:—

April-September, 1972 21,196
tonnes valued at Rs. 6.28 crores.

April-September, 1973 19,151
tonnes valued at Rs. 6.25 crores.

The decline in the export of coir products was mainly due to labour strike which paralysed the Cochin port during the month of June. There has also been decline in the export of coir yarn to U.K. mainly because of stiff competition from the mechanised coir industry recently set up in Sri Lanka.

Special scheme of State Bank of India, Kuttanad, Kerala regarding Financial Assistance to Farmers

3351. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has taken up a special scheme aiming at helping farmers in Kuttanad, Kerala State and

(b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Bank of India has undertaken to finance the Kuttanad Development Project, prepared by the State Government of Kerala, to be implemented through Kerala Land Development Corporation, to overcome the problems of high floods during monsoon and salinity during summer, affecting rice cultivation in the area. The project envisages construction of permanent submersible bunds of about 2000 kms of which about 370 kms involving an outlay of Rs. 375 lakhs are proposed to be constructed in the first phase during 1973-74 and 1974-75. Under the project, besides term loan to be given to the Kerala Land Development Corporation, the farmers will also be grant-

ed assistance by the Bank on the usual terms for meeting their crop loan requirements. The bank propose to open 6 Agricultural Development Branches in Kuttanad area of which two at Edathua and Changanacherry have already been opened. After the implementation of the project, production is expected to increase by 149 lakh tonnes of paddy valued at Rs 10 crores and about Rs. 60 lakhs worth of coconuts every year. The project is also expected to provide employment to about 5000 masons and 10,000 unskilled workers.

Conveyance allowance for Engineers and Doctors

3352 SHRI SHANKAR DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether motor car conveyance allowances for engineers and doctors have not been revised since 1965 in spite of steep rise in the cost of petrol cars and spares, and

(b) when Government propose to revise the rates to mitigate the hardships of engineers and doctors on field duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANE' H) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of revision of rates is under examination.

Motor car Conveyance Allowance

3353 SHRI SHANKAR DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the motor car conveyance allowances recommended by the Third Pay Commission in their report are purely ad hoc and without any rational basis and

(b) whether in view of the steep increase in petrol prices Government propose to revise the Third Pay Commission's recommendation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) In recommending the revised rates of conveyance allowance, the Third Pay Commission have kept in view the fact that the "existing" rates were fixed in 1961 and required revision so as to bring them in line with the "present-day" transport costs.

(b) The question of revision of the rates is under examination.

International Monetary Reforms

3354. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the big five international monetary powers are making efforts to by-pass the interests of the developing countries on the question of international monetary reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of their policies which are likely to harm the interests of the developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN)

(a) and (b) The Committee of 20, which is concerned with international monetary reforms, has reached agreement on some of the basic issues such as exchange rate regime, adjustment process, role of SDR etc. There are, however, still differences on many other issues both among the developed countries themselves and between the developing countries and one or the other of the developed countries. At its meeting held in Rome in January 1974, the Committee expressed its determination to complete its work on the main features of a reformed international monetary system in the coming months. The Committee recognised that, in the light of the recent developments in the world economy, priority should be given to certain important aspects of reform affecting the interests both of the developed and the developing countries with

a view to their early implementation. Other aspects of the reform were to be agreed with the understanding that their operational provisions were to be developed and implemented at a later date. It would be the endeavour of India and the other developing countries represented in the Committee of 20 to seek incorporation in the reform proposals of provisions which would take account of the special needs of developing countries including measures for transfer of real resources to the developing countries, revision of quota in the Fund and improvement in the decision-making process.

Negotiations held with Trade Unions of Employees of L.I.C

3355. SHRI MADHU DANDA-VATE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether bipartite negotiations were held with five trade unions of the employees of the L.I.C in January, 1974;

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposals that emerged from these negotiations; and

(c) the reaction of the five Unions to these proposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI). (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The demands of the Class III and Class IV employees of the Life Insurance Corporation included upward revision of the existing scales of pay, allowances and improvement in the terms and conditions of service. An agreement was signed on 24-1-1974, the salient features of which are as under:—

Scales of pay of Class IV posts like Sweepers, Cleaners, Sepoys and Drivers and Class III Posts like Record Clerks, Assistants, Stenographers, Section Heads, Higher Grade