

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

399. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 6th instalment of dearness allowance has been paid to the Central Government employees; and

(b) if not, when this amount will be paid?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The reference is presumably to the additional instalment of dearness allowance on the basis of the index average of 320. If so, the answer is 'No, Sir'.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Cash Aid for export of Engineering Goods

400. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide cash aid for export of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). Appropriate Cash Compensatory Support is afforded to the different engineering products to cover fiscal incidence in costing, particularly for non-traditional items, and as a promotional measure to develop markets.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Punjab

401. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any branches of nationalised banks have been opened in Punjab during 1974-75; and

(b) if so, whether any Agricultural Bank branch has also been opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that during the period July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975 public sector banks, including the 14 nationalised banks, opened 50 branches in Punjab.

(b) The nationalised banks disburse agricultural advances through their regular branches. Only the State Bank of India and its Subsidiaries have some branches designated as Agricultural Development Branches. Two such branches were opened in the State of Punjab during 1974-75.

Revaluation of Rupee in Term of Pound Sterling

402. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has revalued rupee in terms of sterling; and

(b) if so, whether the Bank has revised the rates for purchase and sale of pound sterling for spot delivery recently?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The new rates effective from 5-12-1975 are given below:

Spot Buying	£ 1 = Rs. 18.0784 (As against £ 1 = Rs. 18.2584 previously)
Spot Selling	£ 1 = Rs. 18.1784 (As against £ 1 = Rs. 18.3584 previously)