

Development of Hill Areas

**313. Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Daljit Singh:**

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the different Working Groups of the various Ministries have submitted their proposals for the development of hill areas in the country; and

(b) if so, their financial implications and how they will fit in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) The reports of the Working Groups on Agriculture, Education and Health are being considered and the reports of the Working Groups on Khadi & Village and Small Industries and Transport are still awaited.

(b) In the preparation of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the programmes recommended by the Working Groups will be taken into account.

Held by Income-Tax Authorities at Ramgarh (Rajasthan)

**314. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Officer of the Income-Tax Department flew to Jaipur to force open a massive steel room at Ramgarh near Jaipur, belonging to a businessman;

(b) whether oxy-acetylene flame was used to open the room;

(c) whether the room was opened and what were the contents; and

(d) to whom the room belonged?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Five Income-tax Officers were sent to Ramgarh to undertake a search of the premises of a businessman.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The room was opened and 85.61 Kilograms gold bullion, gold and pearl ornaments weighing 12 Kilograms, cash of Rs. 15,784 and old silver coins of the value of about Rs. 7,000 were found.

(d) The room belonged to the businessman whose premises were searched.

Dearness Allowance Formula

**315. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Das Commission regarding the changing of formula in respect of grant of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, what is the new formula adopted?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) and (b). Under the existing formula of the Second Pay Commission, the rates of Dearness Allowance are reviewed every time the All India Working Class Consumer Price Index registers a rise of 10 points on an average for the preceding 12 months. The Das Body suggested a fresh examination of the formula with regard to either or both of the factors involved, viz. the time factor and the number of points factor, with flexibility which will admit of special treatment in an abnormal situation, but no specific recommendation for the revision of the formula was made by that Body.

On examination it was found that reducing the time factor would mean that seasonal fluctuation in the price index would also be reflected in the revision of Dearness Allowance rates, while reduction of the number-of-points factor would necessitate too frequent revision which had to be ruled out on budgetary and administrative considerations. The State Governments were also consulted as any modification of the formula would have had repercussions on the policies followed by them in respect of their employees. Most State Governments were opposed to the present formula being changed. In these circumstances, Government took the view that no change in the existing formula of the Second Pay Commission was feasible.

Bridge over River Hooghly

316. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) how far the proposal to construct a new road bridge across the river Hooghly to connect Calcutta with Howrah has proceeded;

(b) whether any plan and estimate have been prepared; and

(c) who will be entrusted with the work?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Studies on various aspects of engineering design of the project are in progress.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Transport in Eastern Region

317. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made by the Joint Technical Group on Transport Planning in the Eastern Region of India;

(b) whether in the survey work undertaken by the Group, any expert assistance from the concerned State Governments was asked for; and

(c) whether the data collected by the Haldia Port authorities will also be taken into consideration?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) The transport survey of the Eastern Region is being conducted in two phases: study under Phase A will involve assessment of the available capacities on different transport media and the extent of utilisation of these capacities for the period ending 1965-68. The study under Phase B involves assessment of future transportation requirements of the region, keeping in view its potential economic development over a period of 10 to 15 years and the transport facilities required to sustain such development. Factual data under Phase A has been collected and is being analysed. The issues involved in the methodology for Phase B have also been considered in detail and work has been initiated on collection of data under Phase B.

(b) The survey is being conducted by a special Survey Unit set up in Calcutta under the auspices of the Joint Technical Group for Transport Planning, an organisation established jointly by the Planning Commission, Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Transport, Aviation, Shipping & Tourism. The International Bank for Reconstruction & Development has deputed a team of five specialists to work as part of the Survey Unit. The State Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa are collaborating in the Survey and have constituted technical cells to work with the Unit.