

7.5.1969 revising the ceilings of pay for the grant of Compensatory (City) Allowance and House Rent Allowance to non-gazetted Central Government employees stationed within the limits of the North Barrackpore Municipality, which includes Ishapore.

Recognition of Political Status for Dalai Lama

9611. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various political parties in India have demanded the recognition of the political status of Dalai Lama as the lawful, spiritual and temporal ruler of Tibet ;

(b) the names of the parties which have made this demand ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). While Government are aware of the views of members of the Parliament belonging to different parties some of whom have urged for the recognition of the Political status of the Dalai Lama, and a new orientation of our policy towards Tibet, Government do not have detailed information on the stand of all the various political parties in India in this regard.

(c) Government's policy in regard to Tibet has been changed is contemplated for the present.

Discrimination against Sikh Employees in British Transport Companies

9612. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sikh community in Delhi have submitted a memorandum to the British Government on the question of discrimination shown to the sikh employees by the Wolverhampton and West Midland Transport authorities ;

(b) whether the British Government have since responded to the appeal ;

(c) the number of Sikh employees with these two foreign transport companies who have been sacked as a result of the above policy ; and

(d) whether Government have taken any diplomatic steps to resolve the issue ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Representative of Akali Dal and of the Gurdwara Prabandak committee of Delhi state delivered a memorandum regarding ban on the wearing of turbans and beards by Sikhs in U. K. to the British High Commission, New Delhi, on the 6th April, 1969.

(b) Ban on turbans and beards has since been lifted.

(c) Only one Sikh employee had lost his job as bus-driver in Wolverhampton.

(d) It is not necessary as the ban on turbans and beards has since been lifted.

Officers in S. T. C. and M.M.T.C.

9613. SHRI RAMJI RAM : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) The number of officers in Class I and II working in the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation ;

(b) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were called or accepted on deputation from other Departments during the last three years ; and

(c) the number of Class I and II posts available in both the Corporations separately and number of them filled in ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The total numbers of Class I and II officers in the State Trading Corporation are 203 and 172 respectively.