

House Rent Allowance to Government Employees

7608. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5363 on the 6th April, 1970 regarding grant of House Rent Allowance to Government employees within the pay-range of Rs. 391 to 500 per month and state :

(a) whether exemption from the provision for production of House rent receipt to those receiving pay below Rs. 500 p. m. was granted in pursuance of the Second Pay Commission's recommendations ; and

(b) If so, what new circumstances/reasons arose that warranted this provision to be applied to the category of employees within the pay range of Rs. 391 to 500 p. m. consequent on merger of Dearness Allowance with pay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) While Government were considering the reducing of the limit of Rs. 500/- to Rs. 250/- as before in view of the reported abuse of this concession, with the issue of the orders regarding merger of Dearness Allowance with pay the limit came down from Rs. 500 to Rs. 390/-. Since such reduction is in the direction Government have themselves been considering, the new limit has been left undisturbed.

Disparities in Wages of LIC

7609. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there exist disparities in wages of L. I. C. workers doing identical jobs, and whether L. I. C. workers have recently submitted a memorandum urging the removal of these disparities ;

(b) if so, the details of disparities that have been brought to Government's notice in this regard ; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove the same ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c). Government have not received any memorandum on disparities in the enoluments of employee doing identical jobs. Details of disparities, if any, are not, therefore, available. The unions who are now currently having discussions with the L. I. C. on their salary scales etc. Will have an opportunity to bring to the notice of the Corporation any grievances they may have in this regard.

Haldia Refinery Project

7610. SHRIMATI UMA ROY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the upto date progress of work of the Haldia Refinery project;

(b) the likely date of completion of the project;

(c) whether top officers of the project have not so far moved to the site;

(d) whether the order for movement to the project site has already been issued by the Managing Director and the same was subsequently cancelled because some top officers are reluctant to move to the project site;

(e) whether Government are aware that these officers represented to the Managing Director for their retention at Delhi on the ground of finalisation of project reports, scrutiny of contracts obtaining clearance from the Director General Technical Development; and

(f) whether Government are aware that the same consideration was not accepted in case of the Gauhati Refinery Project and the Barauni Refinery Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN) : (a) Pre-construction planning jobs relating to studies on the product pattern, product specification tankage requirements process licences, soil

Investigation and process designs have already been completed. Commercial agreements for detailed engineering design, supply of equipment and materials and technical assistance have been concluded with the two foreign collaborators. The work on the detailed engineering is in progress in the offices of Technip in France, Industrial-export, Bucharest and M/s Engineers India Ltd. in New Delhi. Procurements and fabrication of equipments and materials, both indigenous and imported have been taken up in hand by Technip in France, Industrial-export in Rumania and by Engineers India Ltd. in India. Construction work is also progressing at site. Temporary roads and railway sidings, warehouse, site offices and canteen building have been completed. Works on pre-treatment of soil for storage tankage area, erection and commissioning of 33/6.6 KV sub-station, earth work, are in advanced stages.

(b) By the last quarter of 1972.

(c) to (e) The Management of India Oil Corporation decided early this year to move the office to the site. Accordingly, the General Manager, the Chief Engineer (Civil) and about a dozen engineering and accounts officers connected with the construction work are already at site. Some staff was required to be retained at the headquarters in New Delhi to get clearances from the Directorate General, Technical Development and have liaison with Engineers India Ltd. and the two foreign collaborators for approval of engineering drawings, approval of procurement proposals and works contracts. On the completion of these works, this staff will also shift to site.

(f) The Haldia Refinery Projects is not comparable with Gubati and Barauni Refinery Projects as the latter ones were being executed on a turn-key basis by the foreign collaborators. The Haldia Refinery is being erected by the Indian Oil Corporation with the technical assistance of Engineers India Ltd. and the foreign collaborators, whose offices are located in Delhi. Since the Haldia Refinery is not a turn-key project, close collaboration between the

owners and the technical consultants/collaborators is required at every stage of design engineering and procurement.

**Revolving fund for Housing for the
Year 1970-71 1971-72**

7611. **S. SRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :**
Will the Minister of HEALTH and FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any revolving housing fund has been created for the year 1970-71, 1971-72 in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory of Chandigarh ;

(b) if so, the respective amounts of the funds and the details of house construction programme ;

(c) if not, the time taken to create the funds ; and

(d) the central assistance given to these States for the above funds ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SRI
B.S. MURTHY) :** (a) to (d). The Government of India are not aware of any move on the part of any of these States or Union Territories, with the exception of Chandigarh, to create a separate "revolving fund" on their own.

The Administration of Chandigarh, however, proposed to retain the repayments of house building advances made by the former Government of the composite Punjab with the object of constituting a revolving fund of the order of Rs. 50 lakhs. This proposal was not acceptable to the Government of India ; but special assistance to the extent of Rs. 35 lakhs was made available to the Chandigarh Administration, as non-Plan funds, during 1969-70, in addition to the Plan provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for Housing for that year.