

and other Indian operators. M/s Azal India Pvt. Ltd. has also started flying with effect from 1.1.1999. PHHL and other Indian registered helicopter operators are fully equipped to provide necessary services to ONGC.

#### **Nuclear Shelter**

3487. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has joined select band of militancy power by indigenously developing protective systems which not only combats contamination caused by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons but also functions as nuclear shelter;

(b) whether some of these nations, like United States, Russia, China, Israel and the NATO members possess this system;

(c) whether this system can be used at a command post/observation post or for storage of medical supplies, fuel and food in a contaminated areas; and

(d) if so, the details of its other advantages?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A number of protective systems capable of providing individual and collective protection against contamination caused by nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons have been indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The protective system can be used for storage of food, fuel and medical supplies and for individual/collective protection.

#### **Pay Revision of Accounts Officials**

3488. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament and Accounts officials regarding pay revision and other demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations in this regard have been received from recognised Unions, Staff Associations and various dignitaries including Members of Parliament. The representationists have been demanding improvement in pay scales allotted to staff working in the Accounts Department of the Railways.

(c) A proposal has been initiated by the Ministry of Railways in this regard. The proposal has, however, not yet been concurred in by Ministry of Finance and Department of Personnel and Training. Final decision of the Government has, therefore, not yet been taken.

#### **Pay Scale of Group 'B' Officers**

3489. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assistant Officers Group 'B' of all departments were working in the same grade prior to January 1, 1996;

(b) whether Assistant Accounts Officers Group 'B' are now provided a higher scale; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide the same scale to other Group 'B' Assistant Officers on Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Group 'B' officers belonging to all Departments in Zonal Railways and Production Units etc. were placed in the common pay scale of Rs. 2375-3750 with effect from 30-7-1993 which remained in force up to 31.12.1995.

(b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, 80% of the Group 'B' officers working in the Accounts Department in the Zonal Railways and Production Units etc. are placed in the higher revised grade of Rs. 8000-13500 subject to