

would serve as a reference rate as well as a signalling rate to reflect the stance of monetary policy. The interest rates on accommodation from RBI, which were hitherto not linked to the Bank Rate were linked to it. Since then, the Bank Rate was changed a number of times to reflect the stance of monetary policy depending upon the prevailing liquidity condition and also as a part of measures to contain the volatility in the foreign exchange market. As the interest sensitivity of business decisions improves, the Bank Rate would gain in importance and would become more effective reference rate.

**Termination of SC/ST Officials of
State Bank of Mysore**

2078. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of Mysore terminated the services of 28 officials who had taken employment in Bank on fake SCs/STs certificates against reserved vacancies as directed by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the criminal cases have been registered against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) State Bank of Mysore has reported that in pursuance of Supreme Court directions, the cases have been forwarded to respective District Verification Committees for verification of their caste status. The bank has received caste validity certificates of three employees of which one has been accepted and the case stands closed. The other two certificates are under process of closure based on positive confirmation received from District Verification Committee. Out of the remaining 25 cases, two persons have obtained stay order on the proceedings and the matter is pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. Suitable necessary action will be initiated by the bank on receipt of certificates in the remaining cases from the District Verification Committees.

[Translation]

Gratuity to BHEL Employees

2079. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) who retired during the period from April 1, 1995 to January 1, 1996 have not been given the benefit of increased gratuity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some public sector undertakings have since sanctioned increased gratuity for their employees retired after April 1, 1995;

(d) if so, the justification of discriminating against BHEL employees; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gratuity payment to BHEL employees is regulated by Government instructions issued from time to time. The employees, who retired during the period 1.4.95 to 1.1.1996, were paid gratuity as per payment of Gratuity Act 1972 with a ceiling of Rs.1 lakh.

(c) It has been brought to the notice of the Government that some Public Sector Undertakings have sanctioned increased gratuity for their Employees who retired after April 1, 1995.

(d) and (e) Since BHEL has acted as per the Government Orders in force and all employees who retired during this period have been covered by these Orders, there is no discrimination.

[English]

**Opening of New Route for Export to
Bangladesh**

2080. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the land customs station at Haldibari railway station is non-functional as there is no rail traffic on Haldibari-Chilahati route on account of absence of railway track for about half kilometre on Indian side and five kilometres on Bangladesh side;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to restore missing rail link; and

(c) the steps taken so far to get the missing rail link restored through Government of India as well as Bangladesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIC Mutual Fund

2081. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation propose to operate LIC Mutual Fund Scheme which will provide a regular stream of income to its investors;