

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring transparency in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to administrative reasons, one of the board level officers of Northern Coalfields Limited has been posted to Gauhati to look after the affairs of North Eastern Coalfields.

(c) The Central Vigilance Commission being an advisory body, do not impose any penalty on an employee of the Central Government or the PSU. However, guidelines exist for non posting of officers of doubtful integrity in identified, sensitive posts.

(d) the Central Government, in effecting transfers, follows the laid down, transparent, guidelines and also considers administrative grounds/reasons.

[Translation]

#### Promotion in NABARD

3180. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:  
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is not entitled to give promotions to the employees of regional rural banks and lay down their service conditions under Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976;

(b) if so, the reasons for withholding the Central Government notification dated 29.7.1998 regarding promotions by NABARD through its circular dated 19.9.1998; and

(c) the time by which the employees of the Bank will be promoted and their service conditions will be improved in accordance with the Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Gazette Notification dated 29.7.1998 has not been withheld by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and was circulated to sponsor banks of all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) vide their circular dated 19.9.1998. NABARD also mentioned in the said circular that Board of Directors of RRBs be apprised of the existing restrictions on fresh recruitment and promotion alongwith the contents of the Gazette Notification.

(c) The service conditions including promotion of employees of RRBs are governed by the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 read with the Regional Rural Banks (Appointment & Promotion of Officers and Other Employees) Rules, 1998 and implemented by the management of respective RRBs.

[English]

#### Special Term Loan to Punjab

3181. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Prime Minister had announced any specific amount of relief to the Government of Punjab from the burden of repayment of Special Term loans granted in the context of militancy; and

(b) if so, the details of the relief announced and is being implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) While the former Prime Minister had announced relief to the State of Punjab from the burden of repayment of Special Term loans granted in the context of militancy, no specific amount had been mentioned.

(b) The details of the amounts written off on the basis of the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations and the additional amounts written off

as per Government's later decision are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amounts written off		Total
	As per Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations (principal)	As per Govt. of India decision (principal & interest)	
1995-96	88.07	803.23	891.30
1996-97	88.07	—	88.07
1997-98	88.07	584.16	672.23
1998-99	110.29	771.15	881.44
1999-2000	120.72	759.35	880.07

#### Retirement Age

3182. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:  
SHRI P. SANKARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the saving in the Government expenditure during 1998-99 due to enhancement of retirement age of Government employees to 60 years;

(b) the percentage of the expenditure of the total budget of the Union Government which is spent on the salaries, allowances etc. of the Government and public sector employees;

(c) whether this percentage is continuing to increase year to year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce the retirement age of the Government servants from 60 to 58 years;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the backlog of induction and the demand of the unemployed youths upon the increased retirement age?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The estimated saving in the pension expenditure as a result of enhancement of retirement age of Central Government employees in 1998-99 is about Rs. 4300 crore.

(b) The estimated expenditure on the pay and allowances of Central Government employees (excluding Defence Services personnel) during 1998-99 constituted 10.3% of the total expenditure budget of the Union Government. In so far as public sector employees are concerned, the expenditure on their salaries & allowances is not relatable to the Union Government's budget.

(c) and (d) Expenditure on pay and allowances expressed as a percentage of the total Union Budget has not been increasing year to year. This was 10.2% in