

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Abolition of Posts in CCI & E Office

911. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of posts in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) have been abolished recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of officers and employees likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Office of the CCI&E is being restructured keeping in view the changes brought out by the New Trade Policy. A Departmental Committee has been constituted to examine the new staffing pattern of the Office of CCI&E. Posts which are found unnecessary or redundant will be abolished without in any way affecting the interests of any regular employee of the CCI&E organisation. However, no post in the CCI&E organisation has been abolished so far nor any employee retrenched.

Retirement Age in General Insurance Corporation of India

912. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the age of retirement in General Insurance Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Discontinuance of Janata and Controlled Price Cloth to the Poor

913. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to discontinue the supply of Janata Cloth/Cloth at controlled price to the poor and weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to discontinue immediately the supply of janata cloth and controlled cloth meant for the poor and weaker sections of the society.

It is, however, proposed to go in for a phased reduction over a period of five years in production of janata cloth because of the policy to reduce subsidy and non-plan expenditure. Both janata and controlled cloth are subsidised items of production. However, the weavers engaged in production of janata cloth which provides them sustained employment even though at a low level of income, will be provided alternative employment and livelihood by gradually shifting them to production of higher value and higher margin items. An omnibus project package scheme will be implemented in the Eighth Plan which will provide funds for modernisation of looms, training, provision of better designs, infrastructure and marketing assistance to weavers, including weavers engaged in production of janata cloth.