

- ensuring minimum tenure of 3 years for vigilance officials in the PSUs;
- providing for consultation with CVOs in the wake of transfer and posting of vigilance staff;
- according status equivalent to Functional Director to the CVO of the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above;
- Undertaking training programmes on vigilance matters for different level of officials.

House Rent Allowance

2463. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the spouse of the allottee of Government accommodation is not entitled to draw HRA in case the husband and wife both are Government servants;
- (b) if so, the justification thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to change its policy; and
- (d) if so, the time by which HRA is likely to be provided to the spouse of the allottee of Government accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) A Central Government employee, who is the spouse of another serving Central Government employee and has been allotted Government accommodation, is not entitled to House Rent Allowance as he/she does not incur any expenditure towards hiring of accommodation. There is no proposal under consideration to change this policy.

Neyveli Thermal Power Station

2464. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Neyveli Lignite Corporation had awarded the main plant package order for Neyveli Thermal Power Station to "Ansaldo" an Italian multi-national company instead of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Import of Onion

2465. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have decided to import onion through National Agricultural Cooperative Markets Federation (NAFED) recently; and

- (b) if so, the details of onion imported from various countries to India during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Industrial Growth Centre at Raichur

2466. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount so far released by the Government for the creation of infrastructure in the Industrial Growth Centre at Raichur in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the funds sanctioned to the above Centre were transferred to some other Industrial Growth Centre in Karnataka;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) The Central Government has released Rs. 680 lakhs, for the Raichur growth centre upto 30th April, 1998. The State Government has spent an amount of Rs. 964 lakhs approximately for development of infrastructure in this growth centre. The State Government has thus spent much more than the amount released by the Central Government. Therefore, there is no diversion of Central funds to other industrial growth centres in Karnataka.

Package for Jammu and Kashmir

2467. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had earlier announced a package for Jammu and Kashmir in which a loan upto Rs. 50 thousand crores was to be remitted;
- (b) if so, whether this includes loan provided to agriculture sector also;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to include agriculture loans also in the package; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Government had announced a scheme known as "Debt Relief Scheme for the borrowers in the State of Jammu and Kashmir" to all scheduled commercial banks/financial institutions on 26th