

(f) Does not arise in view of reply of Part (e) above.

**Reservation of Physically Handicapped
Persons in Income Tax Department**

2460. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons presently working in Group "B" services of the Income-tax Department, and the number of physically handicapped persons out of them;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to reserve atleast three percent of vacancies in Group "B" services of the Income-tax Department for orthopaedically physically handicapped person in terms of S-33 of the Central Act No. 1 of 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which the Government presently fill up such vacancies where there is no provision of direct recruitment or appointment by promotion;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any policy to fill up 3% vacancies of Group "B" services by promotion from Group "C" services; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Records of MMTC

2461. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain important records relating to Sales of Nickel and Zinc to the customers of Delhi for the years 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86 have been disappeared from the Accounts Division of D.R.O., MMTC;

(b) if so, the details of the records found disappeared;

(c) whether similar records prior to 1983-84 and after 1985-86 are available in the above office;

(d) if so, the reasons for disappearance of records for 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted to punish the culprits;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) D.R.O. of MMTC was established in 1981 and since then the records are available in MMTC.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Not applicable.

Corruption in PSU

2462. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corruption in each public sector undertaking was considered by the Chief Vigilance Officer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendations made and measures taken by the Government in order to check corruption in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) The role of Chief Vigilance Officers of the PSUs can be broadly divided into two parts i.e. preventive and punitive. After scrutinising the source of information received from various quarters, CVOs undertake investigation in vigilance cases to detect and proceed against cases of corruption and other malpractices.

CVOs in PSUs also undertake various preventive measures like examination of the Systems and Procedures with the view to eliminate scope for corruption and malpractices; conduct regular inspections and surprise checks; maintain surveillance of officers with reference to the "List of Officers of doubtful integrity" and "Agreed List"; ensure observance of Conduct Rules relating to Integrity; scrutinise Annual Property Returns etc.

(c) Measures taken by the Government on the recommendation of the CVO Conferences for checking corruption and for strengthening the vigilance machinery in PSUs include :

- deputation of Inspector level officers of the Central Police Organizations to the vigilance units of PSUs;
- appointment of CVOs and second level functionaries in the vigilance set up on deputation to the PSUs;
- allowing access to CVOs' vigilance sensitive information and records;

- 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