

- 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

May, 1997 by which the banks/financial institutions may write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers, in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sector in the State of Jammu & Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/- in each case.

(b) to (d) This scheme does not cover loans provided to Agricultural Sector. Further, inclusion of Agricultural Loans has not been agreed to as any "across the board" waiver of such loans would adversely affect the recovery climate and capacity of rural credit institutions to recycle funds.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Cases Against I.T. Evaders

2468. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases against income-tax evaders have been filed till date;

(b) the number of persons found guilty and punished in this regard;

(c) whether the new plan proposed to be formulated by the Government to bring all tax evaders into the direct I.T.; 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 & INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) The number of prosecutions launched u/s 276C(1) of the I.T. Act, 1961 for concealment of income were 210 in 1995-96, 291 in 1996-97 and 681 in 1997-98. The number of convictions obtained in respect of prosecutions u/s 276C were 10 in 1995-96, 7 in 1996-97 and 4 in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Section 139(1) of the IT Act, 1961 was amended with effect from 1.4.97 to provide that a person, who at any time during the previous year fulfils any two of the following conditions, namely;

- (1) is in occupation of immovable property exceeding specified limits.
- (2) is the owner or the lessee of a motor vehicle.
- (3) is a subscriber to a telephone.
- (4) has incurred expenditure on travel to any foreign country for himself or any other person shall furnish a return of income.

In the Finance (No.2) Bill, 1998 the above scheme is proposed to be extended to cover credit card holdings and

membership of a club having entrance fee of more than Rs. 25,000. Any person who fulfils any one of the above six conditions shall be liable to file a return of income. These new provisions are expected to substantially enhance the number of tax-payers.

#### Use of Coal Royalty

2469. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be please to state:

(a) whether there are persistent demand that part of coal royalty given to State Governments should be spent on the development of the concerned affected districts;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has not spent even a single penny on the development of Chandrapur and Nagpur Districts where coal mines exist; and

(c) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Royalty on coal is a source of revenue for the State Government. The proceeds from royalty is credited to the Consolidated Fund of the State Government and any appropriation from such funds can be authorised by the State Legislature. Therefore any amount to be spent by the State Government from the proceeds of royalty on coal in the affected area depends on the decision of the State Government and the State Legislature. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 provides for payment of royalty by the lessee to the lessor State Government but does not prescribe the manner of utilisation of the royalty proceeds. The Central Government, therefore, have no authority to intervene in this matter.

#### Tax Exemptions to VAC Trust

2470. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trust by name Venkatachalapathi Anna Chatram (VAC) Trust of Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu enjoys tax exemptions under the category of public trusts devoted to religious charitable work;

(b) if so, the details of the Trust and the names of trustees;

(c) whether the Trust has filed income tax returns to qualify for the tax exemption; 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 & INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) The trust had