

[Translation]

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 Roy & Associates

Cities Upgraded as a Special Case

1601. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cities in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and other States of the country have been upgraded by considering them as a special case;

(b) if so, the details of cities upgraded, State-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted for upgrading a city;

(d) the facilities provided to these cities after upgradation; and

(e) the names of the cities of Gujarat and other States which are proposed to be upgraded during the year 1999?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The following cities have been upgraded for the purpose of regulating House Rent Allowance and/or City Compensatory Allowance treating them as special cases:

(i) *Only for HRA purposes:*

A-1 Class :— Calcutta (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Nava Mumbai (Maharashtra),

B-2 Class :— Shillong (Meghalaya)

'C' Class:— (i) Entire State of Goa, (ii) Union Territory of Daman and Diu, (iii) Alwaye (Kerala), (iv) Patratu (Bihar), (v) Wadhwan & Patan (Gujarat), (vi) Coonoor (TN), (vii) Barabanki (UP) and certain other hill stations.

(ii) *CCA Purposes only:*

B-2 Class:— Jamnagar (Gujarat) and Rourkela (Bihar).

(iii) *For both HRA & CCA purposes:*

A-1 Class:— Hindon Air Force Station (UP) and Gurgaon (Haryana).

B-2 Class:— Jammu and Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

Some of the criteria adopted for upgrading a city or town for determining HRA and CCA entitlements are their relative expensiveness, prevailing rentals, availability of accommodation, maintenance of earlier parities etc. and large influx or refugees as in the case of Jammu.

(e) There is no proposal presently under consideration for upgradation of any other city or town during the year 1999.

[English]

Trade Agreement with Vietnam

1602. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
 SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL :
 SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Vietnam have agreed to give fresh impetus to bilateral economic ties and diversify their export commodities to enhance quantum of trade from the current level of \$ 120 million;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have also signed a work plan of cooperation in agriculture during the years 1999 and 2000;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) During the Ninth session of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 1st February, 1999 both sides agreed to intensify efforts to diversify their respective export commodities and to enhance the quantum of bilateral trade.

(b) to (d) India and Vietnam have signed a Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture research and education for the year 1999 and 2000, at New Delhi on 1st February 1999 under the existing Memorandum of Understanding for Agriculture Research and Education, as was signed between the two Governments on 31.10.1992. The Work Plan provides for exchange of study visits of scientists and experts between the two countries. The following items have been specified for