

For LIC in the first year, agency commission is paid at a very high rate ranging from 7.5% to 25% on the first year premiums which in the subsequent years of contract is paid at a very reduced rate ranging from 2% to 10% depending upon the various insurance plans sold by an agent. In addition to the normal commission, an LIC agent is entitled to bonus commission at differential rates ranging from 20% to 40% on first year commission. LIC agents are also paid gratuity in terms of Rule 11 of LIC (Agents) Rules, 1972. The quantum of gratuity benefit is related to average renewal commission earnings during 15 qualifying years preceding the relevant date. For GIC, being the annual contract, the rate of agency commission ranges from 5% to 15% depending upon the class of insurance business and remains the same for every year for renewal. Hence the question of payment of bonus and gratuity does not arise in the case of GIC agents.

(c) Does not arise

[*Translation*]

Gold Reserves in River Beds in Uttar Pradesh

7506 SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether gold is available in the river beds in the Himalayan Tarai areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any programme to tap gold therefrom,

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which gold is likely to be obtained from this region; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). The investigations are still at an exploratory stage.

[*English*]

Award Rewarding Scheme

7507. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA:
SHRI HARI SHANKAR MA-
HALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the salient features of the scheme to reward informers and officials in the matter of seizure of contraband goods;

(b) the total amount paid in the last three years to informers and officials and the number of such informers and officials;

(c) whether Government propose to make any change in the above scheme to make it more effective and purposeful for checking the increase in smuggling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Informers and Government servants are eligible for ex-gratia rewards upto 20% of the estimated market value of the contraband goods seized. In determining the amount of reward to be granted to an informer, the Competent authority keeps in mind the specificity and accuracy of the information, the risk and trouble undertaken, the extent and nature of help rendered by the informer. Government servants are normally paid reward upto 10% of the estimated market value of the goods involved. Rewards in excess of this limit but not exceeding 20% are considered only in rare cases where the

Government servant has exposed himself to great personal hazard or displayed exemplary courage, commendable initiative, ingenuity or resource-fulness of an extraordinary character etc.

(b) The amount of reward paid in the last three years to informers and Government servants and the number of such recipients of reward are given in the table below:

<i>Informers</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>	<i>Number of informers</i>
1	2	3	4
	1987	3,82,84,349	1150
	1988	5,63,77,750	1290
	1989	9.59 66,268	1040
			<i>Number of Officers</i>
<i>Officers</i>	1987	4 49.63,679	33,762
	1988	6,01,04,793	1,24,176
	1989	6.77,44,867	33,652

(c) and (d). The matter is before the Supreme Court. Any changes would only be considered after receipt of the judgement of the Court

Ban for Creation of Posts

7508. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed in 1981 for creation of posts in Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings is still in force;

(b) if so, the period for which the ban is likely to be continued; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for lifting the ban and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No ban was imposed in 1981 for creation of posts in Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings. In June, 1981, certain instructions were issued laying down the procedure for creation of various types of posts in the context of ban on creation of posts imposed earlier. In January, 1984, however, as a part of anti-inflationary measures, it was decided that except in the most exceptional circumstances, no new posts should be created. These instructions were extended to the Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) and (c). In regard to Public Sector Undertakings, further instructions were issued in October, 1985, in the matter of creation of posts, relaxing the instructions of January, 1984. In regard to Government Departments, subsequent to the instructions