

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). As per the revised Dearness Allowance formula based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, compensation for price rise has to be paid to Central Government employees twice a year on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the twelve monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) for the period ending June and December each year over the index average of 608, w.e.f. 1st July and 1st January respectively with the salary for September and March respectively. The Consumer Price Index Number for the period ending June, 1989 is likely to be available only in the first half of August. Revised rates of Dearness Allowance due to Central Government employees w.e.f. 1.7.1989 can be calculated only after receipt of Consumer Price Index Number for this period.

Use of Lalmasia Coal Field Farakka Railway Line for Passenger Traffic

*70. PROF. SALAHUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to utilise the National Thermal Power Corporation Railway line from Lalmasia Coalfields (ECL) to Farakka for the purpose of passenger traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Books

*71. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 31st March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 4300 regarding import of books and state:—

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has submitted any report on the outflow of foreign exchange on import of technical and medical books through open general licence:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the number of cases in which illegal practices have been detected and the amount of foreign exchange siphoned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has reported that certain unscrupulous importers are importing books declared as educational literature, but having no commercial value, at over-invoiced prices in the names of fictitious firms; the intention being to remit foreign exchange out of India through legal channels.

(c). The Customs authorities have been alerted. The persons found involved in such activities are penalised in departmental adjudication and are also prosecuted in Courts of law in suitable cases. They are also detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, if considered necessary.