

(a) the number of court cases pending in Agartala bench of the Guwahati High Court; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to enable speedier disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) As on 30-6-1988, 3570 cases were pending in Agartala circuit Bench of Gauhati High Court.

(b) Besides increasing the Judge strength of Gauhati High Court from 10 to 19, recommendations of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts, set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for appropriate action.

#### **Unauthorised Export of Skeletons**

\*57. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any 'major racket' being carried out in the north-eastern States regarding the unauthorised export of human skeletons to the Western Countries through Bangladesh has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). On the basis of a newspaper report enquiries were made but there was no evidence of such exports being made.

#### **Visit of High Powered Japanese Mission**

\*59. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Japanese mission which recently visited India found Japanese investment in India to be beneficial for both the countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements, if any, reached between the two countries; and

(c) the States where Japanese investment will be utilised and the purpose for which it will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). A high level Japanese Government mission on economic cooperation visited India from 31st January to 7th February, 1989. The mission discussed in general terms the medium term and long term perspectives of economic development in India as well as prospects for strengthening economic cooperation between India and Japan. No specific agreements for Japanese investments in India were signed.

#### **Payment of D.A. to Central Government Employees**

\* 60. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:  
SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the All India Consumer Price Index

for industrial workers as on 1st January, 1989 (base 1960 : 100) on the basis of which Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is sanctioned;

(b) whether the Central Government employees have become eligible for one more instalment of D.A. from 1st January, 1989; and

(c) if so, how much it will cost the exchequer during the year and the time by which a decision would be taken by his Ministry to pay the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) Base (1960=100) ending December, 1988 on the basis of which sanction of Dearness Allowance will be considered to Govt. employees w.e.f. 1.1.1989 is 818.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The additional cost on account of the release of the DA instalment w.e.f. 1.1.1989 will be nil during the current financial year as payment of DA for the months of January and February 1989 will be made during the financial year 1989-90. The matter regarding payment of DA with effect from 1.1.1989 is under consideration.

#### **Loan to Sick Shipping Companies**

374. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to give rescue loans to a number of sick shipping companies; and

(b) if so, the particulars of shipping companies which are eligible to get this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for giving rescue loans to sick shipping companies. However, the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India (SCICI) has carried out financial appraisal of the shipping companies assisted by erstwhile SDFC. In the case of those sick Shipping Companies which are considered to be viable, rehabilitation packages have been worked out for them by the SCICT. The rehabilitation packages include inter-alia, restructuring of the outstanding loans by converting the excess of the principal amount of the debt over the actual valuation of the assets into interest-free frozen debt and the outstanding interest into cumulative convertible preference shares. The promoters of the rehabilitated companies are also required to put in adequate contributions.

#### **Major Irrigation Projects of Orissa Pending for Approval**

375. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major irrigation projects in Orissa which Union Government have cleared for implementation and the projects which are still in the process of clearance; and

(b) the total investment on all these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). From the beginning of planned development, three major irrigation projects costing Rs. 170 crores to benefit 8.7 lakh hectares were completed. Another five major projects estimated to cost Rs. 1470 crores to benefit about 9 lakh hectares have been taken up. Four new major projects estimated to cost