

claimed that when their land is being vacated now it should be done on the basis of new land acquisition proceedings and they should be entitled to have adequate employment opportunities.

Efforts are being made to collect more details regarding the grievances of the displaced persons and such further action as may be warranted will be taken.

Tax-free and upward Revision of City Compensatory Allowance

*602. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of City Compensatory Allowance to Central Government employees was fixed more than a decade ago and has remained unchanged and restricted to the maximum extent of Rs. 75.00 p.m.; and

(b) in view of enormous increase in the cost of living in metropolitan cities, whether Government propose to revise it upward and also make it tax-free?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The existing rates of Compensatory (City) Allowance payable to the Central Government employees which are subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 in A class cities, are based on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission and have been in force since 1st November 1973. A demand made by the Staff Side in the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) for upward revision of the rates of the allowance was remitted to a Committee of the Council whose formal report is awaited. No proposal is, however, at present under consideration for making the allowance tax-free.

Cocoa Growers in Kerala

*603. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:
SHRI P. J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the import of cocoa on a large scale, cocoa growers in Kerala are facing a crisis;

(b) what is the total demand of cocoa in the country and how much is produced in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to end the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). Government has received a representation that cocoa growers in Kerala are facing difficulties in disposing of their produce, and that import of cocoa beans should be stopped. The Government has carefully considered the situation. The total demand for cocoa in the country exceeds indigenous production, and, therefore, it is not possible to ban the import of this commodity. The requirement of the organised sector at the present level of capacity utilisation is estimated to be about 1600 tonnes. In addition, 300 to 400 tonnes is required by the units in the small scale sector. Thus, the total domestic demand is of the order of 2000 tonnes per annum. As against this, the present level of indigenous production is estimated to be about 1,000 tonnes. The gap between the total demand and indigenous production has to be met by imports from other countries.

2. However, Government has decided to regulate imports having regard to domestic production and demand. Import of cocoa beans and cocoa powder has, therefore, been canalised through STC with effect from 16th July, 1980. Henceforth, it will be possible to so regulate imports that the interests of indigenous growers are safeguarded.