

the cases, they have already issued show cause notices while the other cases involving scrutiny of voluminous records are still under examination by them.

Reduction in Premium Rates of L.I.C.

*1195. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has reduced premium rates on some non-profit schemes ;

(b) if so, whether marriage and education policies which are also non-profit schemes have been included in the above category ;

(c) if not, the justification for excluding those two categories ; and

(d) when these categories will be given premium relaxation as in the case of other non-profit schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) On 1-2-1970, the L.I.C. reduced premium rates under some of the non-profit plans for assurance.

(b) to (d). An actuarial examination of the Fixed Term (Marriage) and Educational Annuity Plans showed that a reduction in the premium under those plans was not feasible.

Appeals against Income-tax Assessment Cases

*1196. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government keeps statistics regarding the percentage of Income-tax assessments that go into appeal, and of those modified or reversed on appeal ;

(b) if so, the relevant data for the last three years, yearwise ; and

(c) if not, the basis on which the performance of assessing officers is gauged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.

GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Statistics regarding the number of assessments completed by the Income-tax Officers and appeals filed before the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax as also of the appeals decided by the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of income-tax, modifying, annulling or setting aside the assessments are maintained by the Commissioners of Income-tax.

(b) The Central Board of Direct Taxes maintains statistics regarding number of assessments completed in a year as also about the number of appeals filed by assesseees before the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax. The information regarding total number of appeals disposed of by the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in a year is also maintained in the Board. However, the information in the precise form asked for by the Hon'ble Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The performance of officers is judged on the basis of the assessments by them as also the decisions of the appellate authorities on the appeals filed against such assessments

Steps to keep Madras Port Clean

*1197. SHRI JADEJA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a news item appearing in the 'Statesman' dated the 27th June, 1971 under the caption "The cleanest and the dirtiest port in the World" ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to keep the Madras port clean ; and

(c) take broad outlines of the scheme Government propose to take up for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) The caption is 'The cleanest and the dirtiest' and not "The cleanest and the dirtiest port in the World." The news report refers to cities and not Ports

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Estimate and Design for the Construction of Oil Jetty at Madras Port

*1198. SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the original estimate and the design received for the construction of an all-weather oil jetty in the Madras Port had some technical defects ;

(b) whether a revised estimate and design was called for ;

(c) whether the delay in the construction work is due to the above reasons ; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government for the completion of the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b). The reference is presumably to the Oil Dock of which the Oil Jetty forms a part. The design originally adopted by the Madras Port Trust for the Oil Dock Project was not found adequate. Steps to remedy the shortcomings were therefore recommended by a high level technical Committee constituted by the Port Trust with the approval of the Government of India. The designs and estimates were accordingly revised by the Madras Port Trust.

(c) and (d). The delay in the execution of the Project has been due to various technical problems which were encountered during the construction of the breakwaters involving many special features. The high level Technical Committee has examined the position and recommended various measures for solving them. These measures are under implementation by the Port Trust.

Financial Assistance to Kerala

*1199. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala is facing acute financial crisis ;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have sought financial assistance from the Government of India to overcome the said crisis ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). In the context of a request made by the Reserve Bank of India to arrange the clearance of their overdraft by the end of June, 1971, the Government of Kerala had recently approached the Central Government for necessary assistance. A ways and means advance was accordingly given to the State Government on the 30th June to clear their overdraft on that date. The advance will be recovered within the current financial year.

Incentives Provided to Small Depositors

*1200. SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any incentives have provided to the small depositors to attract them to the nationalised banks ; and

(b) if so, what are they and with what success ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Deposit schemes to suit the convenience of small depositors are in operation in many of the nationalised banks. Some banks accept deposits of 25 paise every day while others invite depositors to open savings bank accounts with only Rs 5/- and accumulate their balance through recurring deposits. Recently an 'Insurance-linked Savings Account Scheme' has been introduced in some banks, providing an insurance cover on the life of account-holder having a savings bank account specially opened for the purpose.

While there has been a significant increase in the deposits of the nationalised banks and also in the number of savings accounts with these banks after nationalisation, it is difficult to specify exactly the extent to which such increase has occurred as a result of the operation of the special deposit schemes.