

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I think the hon. Member misunderstood the question earlier. The question was whether there will be any attempt to correlate the pay-scales prevailing in the other States and Delhi. Now, to that, the answer was that that is not easy to do because it is primarily a State subject. But so far as Delhi is concerned, the Government is as sympathetic, if not more, than the hon. Members in considering favourably the revision of pay-scales of primary teachers. Various questions have to be taken into consideration, seeing that no further anomalies arise as have been noticed to arise in the past.

In the pay-structure which was last fixed in May, 1970, *prima facie* the Government thought that it needed reconsideration. Therefore, the Government is pursuing seriously and vigorously the steps to see that the whole thing is examined again and something is done about it.

श्री शशि ब्रूण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब पिछली दफा शिक्षकों और प्रिन्सिपलों के वेतन निश्चित किये गए थे, उस समय इनके वेतन मानों में बहुत अधिक विषमता आ गई थी, मैं सिर्फ इतना जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषमता को दूर करने में कितना समय लगेगा। शिक्षकों को इन्तजार करते-करते एक अर्सा गुजर गया है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें अब कितना समय और लगेगा ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : It is difficult for me to lay down a timelimit, because the considerations of this question include financial consideration also and it is not as if a long time has gone because the last pay-structure was fixed in May, 1970. After that, the State teachers were agitating; they wanted a minimum of Rs 150. That is also being sympathetically considered by the Department. After that an attempt has been made and the teachers were agitating and wanted a minimum of Rs. 150. All aspects are being sympathetically considered by the Government. The whole question will be reconsidered. I can assure the House that it will be as early as possible.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Anticipated fall in tourist traffic due to disturbances in Bangla Desh

*1471. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR ;
SHRI JADEJA ;
SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY :**

Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to State :

(a) whether the tourist-traffic in India has been affected this year due to disturbances in Bangla Desh ;

(b) whether he had discussed this matter with the officers of his Ministry and Air India in a meeting called at Rome recently ; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to step up tourist traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) While the figures of tourist arrivals this year so far show an increase over the corresponding figures for last year, it is probable that more tourists would have come but for the unfounded reports in some foreign newspapers regarding the possibility of a cholera epidemic in India.

(b) A number of matters relating to tourist traffic were discussed at the conference held in Rome recently, including the countering of misleading press reports.

(c) Publicity and promotional campaigns are being continued and the correct position is being explained.

Restraint on foreign remittances

*1474. **SHRI MUKHTAR SINGH
MALIK ;
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :**

Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since considered taking appropriate steps, legislative or otherwise, to put restraints on foreign remittances ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Members have in mind remittances arising out of foreign investments and/or collaborations. The posi-

tion of remittances in this regard is that except the profits and dividends relating to foreign investments which had already been made prior to Independence, and to a small extent, the profits of branches established since then without having to secure the prior approval of Government, all the remittances made abroad relate to payments arising out of investments which have had the specific approval of Government. A constant watch is kept on possibilities of avoiding new liabilities consistently with the objective of economic growth and the approvals given now are on a much more selective basis than before.

Utilisation of Buckingham Canal for inland water transport in Madras

*1477. SHRI BHUVARAHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to utilise the Buckingham Canal for inland water transport in Madras ;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose ;

(c) whether there is any specific limit for the transport *i. e.* from which place to which place and whether the work has been taken in hand ; and

(d) when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) Buckingham Canal in Tamilnadu is being utilised by small country-crafts for transport of cargo. There is a proposal to dredge this canal by another 2 feet for making it fit for plying of larger country-crafts.

(b) A tentative provision of Rs. 20 lakhs has been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) under the Centrally Sponsored category. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs has been sanctioned recently for the South Buckingham Canal. The proposal for dredging of the North Buckingham Canal lying in Tamilnadu is under consideration as this has to be viewed alongwith the improvements to the same Canal proposed for the stretch lying in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The scheme already sanctioned will cover the portion of the canal where it

intersects Cooum river, and upto the Marakanam back waters. The scheme is likely to be taken up by the State Government shortly for execution.

(d) The work already sanctioned is expected to be completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Imposition of tax on salaries and allowances of Union Ministers

*1479. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently some Members of Parliament urged the Prime Minister to subject the salaries, allowances and perquisites of Union Ministers to tax and ;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). Recently, a Member of Parliament has written to the Prime Minister suggesting the taxing of the Ministers' allowances and perquisites in a manner different from that prescribed under the existing law. The salaries, allowances and perquisites (*i.e.* free furnished residence including free supply of water and electricity) of Ministers are regulated by the Salaries and Allowances of the Ministers Act, 1952, and Rules made thereunder and these are already subject to tax in accordance with the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act. No. special provisions have been made in that Act in regard to Ministers for this purpose. In other words, the salaries, allowances and perquisites of Ministers are already subject to income-tax in the same manner as those of other salaried taxpayers.

Retrenchment of Staff of General Insurance Companies

*1482. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any retrenchment of the staff after the take-over of the General Insurance Companies, was effected ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?