

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: If the Government want to introduce prohibition, how is it that they themselves impose a condition of awarding stars on the basis of the bar attached to the hostels?

श्री पुण्डरीकम कौशिक : किसी होटल में मयखाने को शामिल कर देने पर कोई स्पेशल क्लासिफिकेशन नहीं दिया जाता है।

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN. This question is not exactly about hotels. I notice that an increasing number of school and college students come to see the capital of India, particularly during the session period or on other important occasions. I have come across many instances, when they had to stay on the platform of the Railway station because they had no other place to go. Will the Minister be pleased to make some arrangements, I would not call them dharamsalas, but some arrangement of that style, not one star or two star hotels but dormitories where the students can stay for two or three days. Will he make some such arrangements in the capital city of Delhi?

श्री पुण्डरीकम कौशिक : मुझे बहुत खुशी हुई है कि माननीय सदस्य का मुझसे इस विषय में हमको मिला। निश्चित रूप से सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है। यहाँ पर यूथ होस्टल है, यूथ होस्टलम रीसॉमियेशन भी है और वहाँ पर बराबर युवा पर्यटकों के ठहरने का प्रबन्ध होता है। जो यूथ ग्रुप में भी आते हैं, तो मैंने बताया कि उनका भी टैरिफ 15 रुपये होगा। एक साथ भ्रमण बढ़के आते हैं, तो एक कमरे में उनको और सस्ती जगह मिले, इसको भी व्यवस्था की जा सकती है।

कैम्पिंग साइट्स भी यहाँ पर हैं, जिनका उपयोग टूरिस्ट्स के लिये किया जा सकता है। लेकिन जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया कि

सरकार बराबर जोर दे रही है कि यूथ मूवमेंट को ठीक ढंग से बढ़ाने के लिये आवास व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता है जिससे एक जगह से दूसरी जगह जाया जा सके। मैं माननीय सदस्य को प्रशस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि यूथ मूवमेंट को बढ़ाने के लिए, यूथ लोगों के लिए सस्ते आवास की व्यवस्था जितनी जल्दी हो सकेगी हम करेंगे।

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: I come from one of the historical places. You have not allowed me to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Every party has been given a chance. Your party has also been given.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: Even the size of the Member does not count!

MR. SPEAKER: That I know!

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARAN-GAM: My question will be very brief.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the next question. No further discussion.

Memorandum from All India P & T and other Central Government Pensioners' Association

*248 **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a memorandum from the All India Posts and Telegraphs and other Central Government Pensioners' Association regarding the restoration of pension from 3/8th level to 4/8th level after full recovery of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity amount paid in lieu of 1/8th reduction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE & REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1950, Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity was carved out by reducing pension from 4/8th to 3/8th of emoluments on the recommendation of the First Pay Commission and the amount so reduced was paid in lump sum to the retiring Government servant on the basis of its actuarial equivalent. However, the Pay Commission had at that time suggested this actuarial equivalent only to work out the quantum of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity. Since then, the quantum of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity has been increased on several occasions without any reduction in the amount of pension. On the recommendation of the Second Pay Commission, the rate at which Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity was calculated was increased from 9/20th of one month's emoluments to 10/20th, without a further reduction in the scale of pension. The maximum amount of gratuity was also raised from Rs. 22,500/- to Rs. 24,000/- subject to a limit of 15 months' pay. Again, the Third Pay Commission raised the maximum gratuity from 15 months' to 16½ months' pay and the overall limit of Rs. 24,000 was raised to Rs. 30,000. The latest position is that the maximum pension payable to a Government servant on retirement is 33/80th of the average of 10 months' emoluments and the maximum Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity, is 16½ months' emoluments, subject to the maximum limit of Rs. 30,000. It has also been decided to do away with the reduction of 2 months' pay from the Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity which was hitherto enforced as the employee's contribution towards family pension.

It would thus be clear that Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity is not the commuted value of a portion of the pension, and is a part of the scheme for retirement benefits to Central Government employees. It has, therefore not been possible to accept the

suggestion for restoration of 1/8th of the pension. The Association has also been informed accordingly.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is it not a fact that the death-cum-retirement gratuity scheme is a compulsory commutation and that by virtue of this the basic rate of 40/80 pension after full liquidation of death-cum-retirement gratuity stands a good claim for restoration? Therefore, why is it that those very few pensioners who happen to live beyond a certain age in their old age, cannot be given compensation or help by Government by final restoration of their pension? Virtually Government is taking money from them.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: These matters have been considered by three Pay Commissions and they have, as a result of the consideration, gone on raising the gratuity element. In the matter of retirement benefit, if it is suggested that this is in the nature of commutation of a portion of pension...

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Compulsory.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: There is no compulsion in this. Even when people commute their pension, if they live longer they cannot say that their commutation be treated as cancelled and they should continue to be given full pension. That is not a correct view and we have resisted this particular kind of request. The whole scheme is not on the question of commutation. It was taken up on a national basis by the Pay Commissions as to what the quantum of gratuity should be and successively while the pension remained unaltered, the gratuity has gone on increasing. Therefore, the Government has all along considered this question, the total quantum of retirement benefit which should be appropriate for the Government servants to have.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: It is well known that gratuity, by the very word of it, does not mean pension. Gratuity, if you go into the Gratuity Act, is a free gift for service. That being the case, how can the Minister keep on saying that you take the gratuity but please do not live beyond a certain number of years and if you live beyond a certain number of years, you will have to starve? After all, it is a small number who is affected. They should be given adequate consideration and adequate compensation and the pension should be given to them. Government should not be unfair or immoral by taking money from those who happen to live longer.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I am glad that the hon. Member is living up to her normal attitude in these matters by saying that it is immoral and she has gone to the extent of saying that these pensioners are starving. This kind of exaggeration has no argument at all. As I explained, the question that the Government considers is only from the point of view of what is the reasonable quantum of retirement benefit which should be given and the retirement benefit in this case has been changed in this form.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM: Whether it is a fact that thousands and thousands of employees who are working in the P & T are stagnating in their maximum pay and they have not got any promotion even after putting in 25 years of service. At the same time, they are not given any extra payment. What is the reason for that?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: It seems to me that they want the entire scheme of pension to be revised and, if so, certainly, it can be considered. But what I would say is that the pension scheme, as at present conceived, is perfectly fair and has been so accepted even by the Pay Commission.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM: I am not asking about pension; I am asking about the pay-scales...

MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Finance Minister will agree that we have already launched the idea of a Welfare State and an increasing number of health services which imply that longevity is going to be higher and higher. I hope, he will have to agree with me on this point. If that is so, should the Government not think in terms of relaxing and revising some of the age-old and rigid rules of pension and gratuity and bring them in tune with the new expectations of life in this country? Secondly, would he also not agree with me that although the Government on one hand goes on giving periodically hikes to regular Government servants while they are in employment in terms of additional D.A. etc., a large number of retired Government servants remain almost stuck up at a particular pension amount? I do not know whether the Minister himself gets a pension or not. A large number of retired Government servants get stuck up at a particular pension amount. They are never considered for any hike although a number of Pay Commissions go on giving hikes to regular Government servants while they are in employment.

Sir, you are coming from Bangalore. You know Sir that Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bombay and many other places are full of a large number of retired pensioners, some of whom, and even beyond the age of 80, are doing useful service by writing articles for newspapers and letters to Editors and all sorts of things. They are doing good work. Therefore, in the interest of democracy also, the Government should see that these old seasoned people giving their experience through some of these things are paid adequately so that they can live honourably. What is the Government's attitude to that?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member has made a small speech in sup-

port of the pensioners. As a pensioner, I am very glad that he is taking interest in the welfare of the pensioners. May I point out to him that we do take into account the fact of longevity, etc. and there is a continuous revision of the commutation table, etc. As regards dearness allowance, pensioners do get certain increases in their pensions taking into account higher cost of living index. But having said that, when you refer to the fact that our aim is a Welfare state—certainly, it is our aim—we have to cut our cost according to the cloth available, that is, the resources of the country must always be kept in mind. Whatever welfare activity that the Government may undertake, it must also take into account the resources of the country. I think, this cannot be forgotten.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Minister is talking about resources. How much is the uncollected tax arrears at present?

***R. SPEAKER:** That is not to be answered

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I will not answer that.

Export Targets for Engineering Goods

*249. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council have fixed the export targets for engineering goods for the Eastern Region at Rs. 120 crores and Rs. 140 crores for 1977-78 and 1978-79 respectively;

(b) if so, whether Government consider it necessary to improve the rate of capacity utilisation to fulfil the target; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take for speedy improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) The Eastern Regional Committee of the Engineering Export Promotion Council has fixed an export target of Rs. 50 crores for 1977-78 and Rs. 175 crores for 1978-79.

(b) Capacity availability is not a constraint in the way of fulfilment of the targets. But, better capacity utilisation will improve the viability of firms, and, hence, their capability for increased export efforts.

(c) Improved capacity utilisation depends on factors like availability of power, availability of raw materials, good labour relations, effective management operations, etc. The Ministries of Government concerned with these matters are continuously taking steps to bring about improvement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the hon. Minister is quite a knowledgeable person in this respect also. May I know whether he is aware of the fact that the entire eastern region of our country accounted for 66 per cent of the total export of our engineering goods about a decade ago, namely, 1960 and it had dropped down to a figure of only 15 per cent in the year 1975-76? Whether he is also aware of the fact that during the last ten years, the export of engineering goods in the country increased by 14-fold whereas in the case of eastern region, it has increased only by three-fold. Having regard to all these things, I also want to give other facts about the total manufacturing units in West Bengal. As far as those units are concerned, there was a decline in export from 23.5 per cent to 16.9 per cent. So far as production capital is concerned, it was 30 per cent ten years ago. Now it has dropped down to 22.2 per cent. So far as employment potential is concerned, it was 33.2 per cent ten years ago. Now it has dropped down to 19.6 per cent. In view of all this, may I know from the hon. Minister, what concrete, particular and specific steps Government