

(b) if so, whether the New Delhi Municipal Committee proposes to recast the same after spending several lakhs again ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

House Rent Allowance to Officials of Laccadives

*134. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the House Rent Allowance is not given to the native officials in Laccadive Administration whereas the Allowance or the facility of free accommodation is provided to others who are on deputation or recruited directly from other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any representations have been received by Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove this discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (d). The concession of rent free accommodation or house rent allowance is admissible only to persons belonging to the mainland recruited for service in the Islands under the Laccadives Administration and to those deputed from State or Central Government for such service. This facility, like other concessions such as Island Special Pay and free sea passage, was sanctioned for providing an incentive to attract qualified and experienced persons from the mainland for service in the Islands, where conditions of living are not comparable to those obtaining on the mainland. Some representations were received in this regard from local recruits

and they were informed of the factual position.

Merger of Dearness Allowance with Pay of Government Employees

*135. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of the merger of Dearness Allowance with pay of Central Government employees, it is necessary to revise the pay scales of Government employees ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Pay Commission to go into the matter or they would take a decision on this issue *suo motu* ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) The decision to treat a part of Dearness Allowance admissible to Central Government employees as Dearness pay does not necessitate revision of the pay scales of Government employees.

(b) Does not arise.

महाराष्ट्र में कृषि कार्यों के लिए बिजली की दरों में सहायता

*136. श्री देवराव पाटिल : क्या सिंचाई तथा बिद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने राज्य में कृषि प्रयोजनों के लिए बिजली की दरों में कमी करने के लिए अर्थ-सहायता देने हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार से प्रार्थना की है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

सिंचाई तथा बिद्युत् मंत्री (डा० कु० ल० राव) : (क) जी नहीं ।