

of social system and its existence is involved. When we talk of narcotics, we mention the names of Bombay, Delhi and Madras cities in this connection, but we forget that if we have to see the effect of these narcotics, we will have to go to the villages where use of these drugs is spreading fast. All the concerned Ministries should look into this and the Government should tell us whether it wants to formulate any new policy in this connection ?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : It is correct and the Government is fully aware of it. The hon. Members must be knowing that keeping in view the drug addiction and drug menace, the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was enacted in which harsher punishment has been provided and there is one Narcotics Control Bureau also in my Ministry. This I want to submit for the information of the House.

[English]

As a result of various measures taken and the intensive drive launched against drug trafficking, considerable quantities of drugs have been seized, particularly, heroin and hashish. During the first ten months of 1986, over 2,850 kgs. of heroin was seized, which is the highest quantity ever seized by any country and include the largest single seizure of 602 kgs. in January and the second largest seizure of 472 kgs. in August, 1986. The quantities seized are three times more than seizures in 1985, 12 times more than of 1984 and 18 times more than of 1983. In addition, the authorities have also seized over 17 tonnes of hashish till October, 1986 as compared to ten tonnes in 1985 and 4 tonnes in 1984.

[Translation]

But we want to be more strict so that we can eradicate this menace fully.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are not realising the seriousness of the question. It is a very serious problem. It is not a political matter.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Hero is also

involved !

Special compensatory allowance to employees in Ladakh areas

*373 **SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government employees posted in areas of Ladakh other than Nubra and Nyoma sub-divisions have represented that they should be entitled to same rates of special compensatory allowance as are recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission for those posted in Nubra and Nyoma sub-divisions ; and

(b) if so the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) No such representation has been received in the Ministry of Finance in the recent past.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : The hon. Minister says, Ministry has not received representation. Very recently I have submitted one of the representations to the hon. Minister for Finance for consideration. I hope he will look into it. But in the meanwhile I would like to refer for the kind attention of the Ministry of Finance to Chapter 17.11 of the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendation in which the allowances of the Central Government employees posted in remote areas and other places have been rationalised. The Central Government employees posted in Ladakh are getting Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- per month less as compared to the persons of the same status who are posted in places like Simla, Srinagar and other places. In Ladakh the cost of living particularly in winter is 200% to 400% more than Srinagar and other places. For instance one quintal of hard coke which costs around Rs. 25 in Delhi, it is Rs. 305 in Leh. As per the recommendation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission Winter Allowance has not been allowed to Ladakhies persons posted in Ladakh because Ladakh has not been specified as a hill station. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Finance will review the recommendation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission's re-

commendations to do justice to the Central Government employees posted in Ladakh so as to redress their grievances.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : There are two types of allowances. One is Special Compensatory Allowance and another is Hill Compensatory Allowance. Since both the allowances are exclusive of each other, if one is getting one type of an allowance, he is not entitled to the other type of allowance.

The Pay Commission's recommendations in so far as Class 'A' is concerned, we have not yet decided. In so far as Noyama and Nobra of Leh District are concerned, rates of Special Compensatory Allowances per month is as under :

Basic Pay below Rs. 950/- p.m. Compensatory allowance is Rs. 150/- p.m.

Basic Pay of Rs. 950/- and above but below Rs. 1500/- compensatory allowance is Rs. 250/- p.m.

Basic pay of Rs. 1500/- and above but below Rs. 2000/- compensatory allowance is Rs. 350/- p.m.

Basic pay of Rs. 2000 and above but below Rs. 3000 compensatory allowance is Rs. 500/- p.m.

Basic pay of Rs. 3000 and above, compensatory allowance is Rs. 650/-.

In Zaskar in Leh District also it is the same.

In all places in Leh Districts other than Noyama, Nobra and Zaskar, it is Rs. 125/-, Rs. 200/-, Rs. 275/-, Rs. 400/- and Rs. 525/- respectively.

With regard to the pay scales, as I mentioned earlier, the Fourth Central Pay Commission has also merged Winter Allowance and Hill Compensatory Allowance and called it a composite allowance. This we have taken into consideration and thereafter new allowances have been formulated.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I have some

figures with me. But keeping in view the time factor I am not quoting. I would like to know will the Ministry of Finance or the Government constitute a Committee consisting of the Secretaries of Ministry of Finance, Personnel and Grievances and some more experts and send them to Ladakh during this very winter month so that things could be compared and studied and justice can be made to those employees who are posted in Ladakh.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, the Government appreciates the anxiety of the hon. Member, but with regard to classification, we made the classification of the areas as adopted by the State Government along with other criteria also with regard to attitude, with regard to inaccessibility, with regard to hardships and all other factors. So, the classification is done by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(Interruptions).

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : But they are getting less allowance in Ladakh at the moment than Srinagar.

(Interruptions).

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : And that is why they should change the classification.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reduction of trade Gap

*369. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the efforts made by