

deposit to be charged should be equivalent to only two months' average consumption; the cost of distribution lines should not be charged from the agricultural consumers; and the cost of service line beyond 100 ft. should be recovered in 60 monthly instalments without interest, if it cannot be paid in lumpsum, first 100 ft. being free as per law.

Although these were the criteria laid down, the States were left free to adopt any more liberal terms and conditions. The State Governments, State Electricity Boards are being persuaded to fall in line with all these recommendations so that the same may serve as an incentive for agricultural development.

As regards the minimum guarantee some of the States like Mysore, Orissa, West Bengal were having minimum guarantees lower than the amount recommended by the Conference. Gujarat States has agreed to reduce the minimum guarantee from Rs. 60 BHP per annum to Rs. 35. The matter is under correspondence with other States.

It was also suggested by the Conference that no electricity duty should be levied on consumption of electricity for agricultural use. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh did not levy any duty on the agricultural consumption. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have since exempted agricultural consumers from payment of levy of duty. As the agricultural rates in Kerala and Mysore inclusive of electricity duty are already lower than the maximum economic rate of 12 p. per unit fixed for agriculturists those States do not consider it necessary to exempt electricity duty. Some States are of the view that the incidence of duty being very negligible exemption is not considered necessary. The matter is still under consideration of the other State Governments.

The other points recommended in the Conference are still under consideration of the State Governments

and the State Electricity Boards. Further liberalisation if necessary, will be considered at a later stage, after the effect of the improvements indicated already are known.

Grievances of C.H.S. Doctors

*261. Shri Kolla Venkaiah:

Shri Daljit Singh:

Shri D. C. Sharma:

Shri Lakhmu Bhawani:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 286 on the 17th February, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the Government have further liberalised the terms and conditions of C.H.S. Doctors after their strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the grievances raised in the representation by doctors of the Central Health Service have been met?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) to (c). Government have taken the following decisions regarding the terms and conditions of service of C.H.S. Doctors which meet all their reasonable demands:

- (1) All medical officers who have been appointed to Category 'E' or equivalent posts of the Central Health Service on a regular basis under the existing Central Health Service Rules, would be promoted to grade of G.D.O.s, Class I, on the basis of their record of service.
- (2) The scales of pay for the various new categories of the Central Health Service and the rate of Non-practising Allowance have been considerably improved.
- (3) The revised scales of pay and allowances will be admissible retrospectively with effect from the 1st July, 1965.

- (4) The cadre strength of General Duty Officers, Class I will be reviewed from year to year to ensure promotion of more and more Class II Officers on satisfactory completion of 5 years of service.
- (5) A certain number of unspecified posts have been included in Super-time Grade II (scale of pay of Rs. 1300—60—1600—100—1800) to which officers of the grade of General Duty Officers, Class I and the Specialists Grade will be promoted.
- (6) It is proposed to classify the various stations into 3 categories namely (a) metropolitan cities, (b) smaller cities and towns; and (c) remote localities and rural areas and to transfer members of the Central Health Service by rotation in a manner, so that every member of the Service will have the opportunity of serving in different stations during the span of their career.

Electronic Computers

*262. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the different concerns, in the private and public sectors, which have been permitted to purchase or hire electronic computers from abroad during the last five years;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange involved in each case by way of purchase price or hire charges; and

(c) the different considerations and priorities according to which Government determines its policy in the matter of giving permission for import of computers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):
(a) and (b). The information is being

collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

(c) In order to keep pace with the fast growing technological advancement in the rest of the world, it will be of significant advantage to India to have computers, particularly for processing of data and certain types of scientifically worked out operations involving large scale data processing, working and programming, inventory control for preparation of pay rolls in the case of large industrial enterprises. Likewise, computers can deal with technical problems of complex nature as in the case of Atomic Energy Commission and research institutions, statistical organisations and big banks. These operations can be attended to efficiently and in time with the assistance of modern computers.

While giving permission to import computers special consideration has been given to developing a manufacturing programme in this country.

Health Cess Levy on Patients

*263. **Shrimati Vimla Devi:**
Shri Buta Singh:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have suggested to the State Governments the introduction of a health cess levy on patients in all public hospitals;