

ned, it has not been possible for the Government to accept the demand for setting up of a Pension Commission as retirement benefits are governed by the rules applicable on the date of retirement of Government employees. Government, however, have taken several measures to provide relief to the pensioners, e.g., grant of dearness relief in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission on the lines of dearness allowance for the serving employees, ad-hoc increase in pension raising, of minimum pension from time to time, provision of medical facilities in areas covered under the Central Government Health Scheme, etc.

**Retention of Ordnance Transit Depot
at Alipore, Calcutta**

29. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to retain the Ordnance Transit Depot at Alipore, Calcutta in supersession of earlier order for its disbandment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V.P. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). A decision had been taken by Government in 1980 to disband the Ordnance Depot, Calcutta and raise an Ordnance Transit Detachment in its place. After careful reconsideration, on the basis of various representations received against its disbandment, it has been decided to retain the Ordnance Depot, Calcutta.

**Introduction of some section of Central
Sales Tax Act to improve Foreign
Exchange Earnings**

294. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government inserted sub-section 3 to section 5, in

the Central Sales Tax Act to improve foreign exchange earnings ;

(b) whether Government of Tamil Nadu (Commercial Taxes and Religious Endowment Deptt.) has brought an unilateral amendment vide G O No. 1055 dated 20th September, 1984, which defeats the above purpose ;

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government and the step proposed to be taken in this regard ;

(d) whether there is any judgment of High Court Supreme Court upholding the Central Sales Tax Act ; and

(e) clarification, if any, sought by Union Government from Tamil Nadu Government after the introduction of the new section in the Central Sales Tax Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). Levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods taking place within a State is a State subject of taxation under Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The proceeds from Central sales tax levied on inter-State sales of goods under the provisions of Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 have also been assigned to the States under Article 269(1)(g) of the Constitution. As the administration of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has been entrusted by law to the States, the relevant information is being collected from the Government of Tamil Nadu and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Population pressure causing
Ecological Imbalance**

295. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken and efforts

made for the protection of environment and ecological balance in order to meet the situation caused by the disruption of ecological balance as a result of excessive population pressures on natural resources in the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) the steps being taken now in this regard indicating the reasons for not paying due attention to this aspect while formulating previous Plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). In the formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan, several measures have been identified and programmes formulated for the protection of the environment and ecological balance. In recognition of the need to evolve a developmental strategy with environmental conservation, integrated and multi-disciplinary programmes for the sustenance of natural ecosystems have been identified and new approaches evolved. Some of the salient programmes include :

- Integrated Eco-Development Research Programme with active participation of universities/ voluntary agencies ;
- Organisation of Eco-Development Camps ;
- Deployment of Eco-Task Forces for soil conservation, afforestation and stabilisation of fragile slopes ;
- Eco-Development of degraded eco-systems with reference to watershed management, arid-land development, mangroves ;
- Creation of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves ;
- Integrated Mountain Development ;
- Environmental Education, Training and Awareness ;
- Environmental research promotion ;

- Pollution monitoring and control ;
- Environmental impact assessment ;
- Natural resource conservation ;
- Setting up structures at the state level for undertaking environmental programmes ; etc.

• A separate department of Environment at the Centre was created in November, 1980. Prior to this, environmental conservation and protection programmes were identified and implemented through the departments of Science & Technology, Forests, Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Works & Housing etc. It was after the creation of a department in the Sixth Plan period that a systematic impetus was provided to environmental policies and issue and an organised, sustained effort has been made since then. In the Seventh Plan, the programmes identified in the Sixth Plan would be further intensified, in addition to attention to new thrust areas.

Steps to check inflation

296. SHRIMATI CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of inflation for the last three years ;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check inflation ; and

(c) the extent of success achieved through these steps ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) The rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index on a point to point basis was 7.1 per cent in 1982-83, 8.3 per cent in 1983-84 and 4.8 per cent in the current financial year up to January 5, 1985.