

(b) under what terms and conditions these loans are being granted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL) (a) and (b). The OPEC Special Fund has decided to provide a loan of US \$ 14 million towards the foreign exchange expenditure on goods and services in regard to three parallel pipelines of about 10 Kms., from Gavhan to Trombay Land Fall through Nhava. The loan is for a period of 20 years including 4 years moratorium and is interest-free, but is subject to a service charge of 0.75 per cent per annum on the loan withdrawn and outstanding.

One-day workshop on Consumer Rights and Distribution System

4208. SHRI KACHARULAL HEM-RAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major recommendations of the one-day workshop on 'Consumer Rights and Distribution System' held in New Delhi is that to ensure availability of goods and services across the country particularly essential commodities at a given price and in given quantities, a separate Ministry of Consumer Affairs should be set up;

(b) what are the other recommendations of the workshop;

(c) whether Government have since considered these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the decision taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) The other recommendations of the workshop on 'Consumer Rights and Distribution System' are: estab-

lishment of a federation of Indian Consumers' Organisations to perform the function of education and extension; essential commodities should be selected and named; 'Civil Supplies' should be included in the concurrent list; Consumer Advisory Council should be set up at Central, State, District, Block levels; there is greater need for vigilance with regard to adulteration and quality control on the part of the Government, and various professional bodies in the country should be associated to research and investigate problems connected with consumer protection.

(c) and (d). The recommendations regarding the setting up of a separate Ministry of Consumer Affairs and including 'Civil Supplies' in the concurrent list are not at present under the consideration of the Central Government. The other recommendations of the workshop are being examined.

Encashment of Earned Leave by Central Government Employees

4209. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some State Government encashment of leave to the extent of one month is allowed to the Government servants;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government also propose to consider extending of such facility to its employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). The Central Government also considered the proposal of extending such facility to Central Government employees, but in view of the substantial financial implications, it was decided not to introduce such

a Scheme. However, Government have formulated a Scheme for allowing Central Government employees to encash the leave available to them at the time of retirement from service. The main features of the Scheme are, in brief, as follows:

(i) The Scheme is applicable to Government servants retiring on or after 30-9-1977.

(ii) The payment of cash equivalent of leave salary shall be limited to a maximum of 180 days earned leave.

(iii) The cash equivalent of leave salary thus admissible will become payable on retirement and will be paid in one lump-sum as one-time settlement.

(iv) Cash payment under the Scheme will, subject to (v) below, be equal to leave salary as admissible for earned leave and dearness allowance admissible on that leave salary at the rates in force on the date of retirement. No city compensatory allowance and/or house rent allowance shall be payable.

(v) From the cash amount worked out in accordance with (iv) above will be deducted the pension and pensionary equivalent of other retirement benefits for the period for which cash equivalent is payable.

(vi) The authority competent to grant leave shall *suo-motu*, issue order granting cash equivalent of earned leave at credit on the date of retirement.

Import of Stainless Steel Sheets

4210. SHRI AHMAD M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of stainless steel sheets imported during the last six months after the announcement of reduction in import duty;

(b) the reason for not reducing the price of utensils by the industrialists

owing to the reduction of import duty; and

(c) whether Government will consider to instruct the industrialists to fix the utensil price per Kg. to reduce the margin of profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) 6994 tonnes of stainless steel sheets have been imported between 16th July and 12th December, 1977 out of which 4182 tonnes are in the grades and thicknesses used by utensil industry.

(b) Although MMTC has already released about 4000 metric tonnes of the imported material, the desirable impact on prices has not yet been felt for the reasons firstly of the time lag between the lifting of the material and the marketing of the end product by the manufacturers and secondly because of the inadequate supplies by the rollers to the utensil industry. However, the prices have started showing declining trend.

(c) The Government is keeping a watch on the situation.

Advances to Marginal Small Borrowers by Nationalised Banks

4211. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount advanced to marginal small borrowers with holdings upto 4 acres by the nationalised banks during the last two years particularly in the State of Orissa; and

(b) the total amount advanced to farmers with holdings beyond 5 acres during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The total amount outstanding of advances to