

(a) the amount being spent monthly towards rent for the accommodation for keeping the office of the Bongaigaon Refinery, and Petrochemical, Limited at New Delhi and the separate amount monthly spent on paying extra allowances to staff for specifically deploying them in Delhi; and

(b) the target date by which the office will be shifted to the project site (by keeping a liaison office in Delhi) and why in spite of several assurances the shifting is being delayed inordinately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited is paying Rs. 30,567.40 per month as rent for its New Delhi office. The staff posted in Delhi is the minimum meant for liaison work with the Government and consultants of the Undertaking. The question of payment of extra allowance to such staff for specifically deploying them in Delhi therefore does not arise.

(b) The office of the Company including that of the Managing Director has already been shifted to Bongaigaon in June, 1978.

Clearance of Rural Electrification Schemes pertaining to Sangli District of Maharashtra

8222. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the broad details of the schemes, sent under special Project Agriculture loan, pertaining to Sangli district, Maharashtra State, pending clearance from the Rural Electrification Corporation;

(b) since when the same are pending with the R.E.C;

(c) the reasons for delay in the matter; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to sanction the same and to allot the requisite funds at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). One rural electrification scheme, under the special Project Agriculture (SPA) programme, of Sangli district in Maharashtra was received by the Rural Electrification Corporation from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board on the 13th February 1979. The Scheme is for a loan assistance of Rs. 22.481 lakhs and envisages energisation of 467 agricultural pumpsets.

(c) and (d). The Schemes are considered by the Corporation on the basis of the order of their receipt priority indicated by the State Electricity Boards and availability of funds. The SPA Scheme for Sangli district is proposed to be taken up for field appraisal in June/July 1979 and will be considered for sanction during 1979-80, if, on examination, it is found to be technically feasible and financially viable subject to the availability of the required funds.

News regarding Draft Bill on Autonomy for A.I.R.

8223. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-report appearing in the 'Sunday Standard' dated 8th April, 1979 under the caption "Setback to autonomy in draft Bill on AIR";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the various observations of serious nature made therein; and

(c) action taken/proposed and facts of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news report.

(b) and (c). Government is finalising its views on the recommendations of the Working Group on Autonomy for Akashvani and Doordarshan. A Bill on the future set-up of Akashvani and Doordarshan is likely to be introduced in the current Budget Session.

Disparity in Pension Payable to High Court Judges

8224. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court Judges taken from the bar on retirement get higher pension as compared to the Judges promoted from the Judicial services;

(b) what are the reasons for maintaining this disparity to the disadvantage of the Judges promoted from the services;

(c) what steps are being taken to dispel this anomaly; and

(d) the reasons why a uniform method of giving pension to retiring Judges has not been introduced till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d). The pensions of High Court Judges are regulated by the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. The pension admissible to Judges appointed from the Bar are governed by Part I of the First Schedule to the said Act. The pensions admissible to Judges appointed from the Judicial Service are governed by Part III thereof. This separate set of provisions (Part III) has been made with a view to giving the Judges appointed from the Judicial Service the benefit of their service in the parent Judicial Cadre.

Under Part III, for service as an officer of the Judicial Service pension is earned by a High Court Judge as per rules of that Service and additional pension is given to him for service as High Court Judge. However, by virtue of Section 15 of the said Act, it is open to a service Judge to opt for pension under Part I of the First Schedule referred to above. It cannot therefore be said that there is disparity to the disadvantage of the Judges appointed from the service as compared to those appointed from the Bar.

Prices of Steel in Tripura and other North Eastern States and Union Territories

8225. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of different types of steels in Tripura and other states and Union Territories in the North East are much higher than in other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, whether with a view to helping these tribal border States in their accelerated development Government propose to make arrangements as in the case of petrol to ensure a uniform steel price pattern for the entire country including the said border areas; and what steps are contemplated in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MANDA): (a) and (b). The Joint Plant Committee prices and the stockyard prices of the steel produced by the integrated steel plants are already uniform throughout the country. Open market prices, however, differ from place to place and from time to time depending on its demand and supply at the particular place and the time and certain other factors.