

accounts like, Gratuity and General Provident Fund have not yet been settled by the Controller, Defence Accounts Office, Poona; and

(b) how many cases are pending and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Only 54 cases which have been received in the office of Controller of Defence Accounts (Officers), Poona after 15-3-70 are outstanding at present.

(b) Out of 54 claims referred to at (a) above, 10 cases are under scrutiny by the Statutory Audit before payment, 4 cases are under reference to administrative authorities either for lien certificates or regarding time-bar and the remaining 40 are under disposal.

Revision of Nehru award on rate of Royalty on Crude Oil

5203. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nehru Award regarding the rate of royalty on crude oil to the State Government of Gujarat became due for revision on the 1st November, 1966;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of 10 per cent of average full posted price according to Prime Minister's Award appears to be lowest in the world; and

(c) if so, whether 10 per cent of the full posted price as the basis is consistent with the price structure of oil produced in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) :

(a) In his award of 1962, the late Prime Minister had recommended that the rate fixed therein "could remain for a specified period of time, say four years and could be subject to review at the end of that period". The award intended this provision to be treated as a recommendatory provision; it could not be made the basis for demanding an automatic revision of the rate after four years. The review was undertaken immediately after the expiry of the Nehru Award and finalised in December, 1968.

(b) The percentage tends to be higher in countries which have large crude oil production, mainly for export, and in which oil revenues form the backbone of public revenues. However, in countries which are interested in promoting exploration of crude oil for internal consumption, as opposed to export, very moderate rates of royalty are levied, obviously to provide an incentive to investment.

(c) The rate of royalty has been fixed on a uniform all-India rate based on the average posted price for comparable imported crude oils and with reference to those produced in the country.

Living condition in the 'Katras' of Delhi

5204. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had rejected the Jan Sangh Scheme to improve living conditions in the 'Katras' of the Union Territory of Delhi, and if so, the reason therefor; and

(b) whether the grants also were slashed down by Government and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs was provided for improvement of Katras under the Scheme of 'Improvement of congested localities' during the financial year 1969-70. In addition, an amount of Rs. 8 lakhs was earmarked for the work from the allocation of Rs. 40 lakhs made under the Slum Clearance/Improvement Scheme. The funds, as allocated, have been released without any cut. The question of rejection of the Scheme or of reduction in grants does not, therefore, arise.

Staff cars in various Ministries of Government of India

5205. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI YAJNA DATTA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :