

**Suicide by Clerk of PNB**

416. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bank clerk in the Punjab National Bank committed suicide alongwith his wife in March, 1998 who was suspended after 'fraudulent deal';

(b) if so, the 'fraudulent deal' committed by the clerk and the details of other bank employees involved in the deal;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered cases against bank officers for embezzlement and connivance with cheats; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases registered by the CBI and the present status of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Punjab National Bank (PNB) have reported that Shri Anil Kumar Gupta, a Clerk who was working at Shakur Basti branch, committed suicide along with his wife on 12.3.1998. PNB have further reported that Shri Gupta was suspended on 9.3.1998 for allegedly indulging in fraudulent transactions through accounts opened in the name of his wife at Rani Bagh branch of the bank. On the basis of investigations, one Senior Manager, one Manager, two Officers, two Clerks and one Special Assistant besides Shri A.K. Gupta, were placed under suspension.

PNB have registered a case with Delhi Police. The bank have also reported that Central Bureau of Investigation have not registered any case so far in the matter.

**Demands of KVIC**

417. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the various demands of Khadi & Village Industries Commission including restoration of rebate to improve the decline in sale which directly improve the livelihood of millions of workers especially the womenfolk in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consideration and disposal of various demands raised by Khadi & Village Industries Commission from time to time is a continuing process. As

regards rebate, it may be stated that the normal rebate @ 10% for whole year and special rebate @ 10 % for a period of 90 days during the festival season on Khadi and Khadi related items were being provided during 1996-97.

In order to further extend support to Khadi in the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, Government had announced a special rebate of 15% in lieu of and inclusive of normal rebate on sale of Cotton, Woollen and Silk Khadi and Polyvastra during the period 15.8.97 to 14.8.1998. An extra rebate of 10% for 90 days in addition to special rebate of 15% (already allowed) was also announced on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti to be available during the period 2.10.1997 to 14.8.1998. Rebate on sale of Khadi and Polyvastra to Government and Government aided institutions etc. was also allowed as hithertofore.

In order to settle the outstanding rebate arrears as on 31.3.1997 to the tune of Rs. 125 crores and additional burden of rebate on account of 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, Government provided an additional grant of Rs. 136.55 crores in addition to the normal budget provision of Rs. 84 crores during 1997-98 to clear the rebate claims.

(c) Does not arise.

**Tenth Finance Commission**

418. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives and contents of Tenth Finance Commission relating to Panchayats and Municipalities on the basis of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments suggested, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the guidelines formulated and funds released so far to the States for such schemes, State-wise; and

(c) the formate and measures adopted for monitoring the works undertaken so far by the States and the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) On the basis of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendmets, the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in order to augment the Consolidated Fund of States to supplement the resources of the Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban Local Bodies in the States. Statewise grants recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission during 1996-2000 are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Guidelines have been formulated for proper utilisation of Local Body grants. Details of grants released to State Governments during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.