

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of historians whose salaries are to be slashed and whether they include such historians who have since retired; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be against such retirees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Historical Research, on discovering that the scales of pay granted in 1992 to some of its officials were not in conformity with the scales prescribed by the Government, withdrew such scales and replaced them with appropriate new scales

(c) and (d) the decision to revert to the approved scale of pay covers 11 persons only, 3 of whom have since retired. No recoveries of the amounts drawn is being made.

[English]

Defence Personnels in Pak Jails

3026. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3384 on March 17, 1997 and state the steps taken by the Government to seek release of the defence personnel languishing in jails during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : The Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also raised during Indo-Pak Foreign Ministers' meeting in April, 1997.

LPG Petrol/Diesel Dealers

3027. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of advertisements issued by the Government for the appointment of LPG/Petrol/Diesel dealers during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and the present status of each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Oil Marketing Companies, 1448 petrol/diesel retail outlet dealerships and 1141 LPG distributorships were advertised by them in different parts of the country during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to

1996-97. Out of them, selections have been made in respect of 342 retail outlet dealerships and 156 LPG distributorships. The remaining proposals are pending for selection and will be taken up as soon as the selection process is reactivated.

Quality of Food in Indian Airlines Flights

3028. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of food being served in breakfast, lunch and dinner during Indian airlines flights is going down day by day as experienced by the passengers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the quality of food will be improved as per the standards of International Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SCAM

3029. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether fraud is being committed in the name of women and child welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However in some cases complaints from various sources are received by the Government from time to time against the functioning of the NGOs working in the field of women and child development. In such cases the matter is got enquired into through the concerned State Government as well as the Government's own agencies. In cases where enquiries revealed misuse of funds by NGOs, further grants are