

(c) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Joint Current Account of Mahatma Gandhi

5807. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Pune Branch of the Bank of India (Maharashtra) has preserved the records relating to the joint current account of Mahatma Gandhi opened by him in 1942; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to take over such rare records in safe custody as these records are of national importance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Bank of India has reported that its Pune Main Branch is preserving the records relating to a Joint Current Account opened by Mahatma Gandhi in January 1946. The bank has been advised to keep the records of this account in safe custody.

[Translation]

Hill Allowance to Central Government Employees

5808. SHRI M.S. PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government Employees working in the foothill areas of Nainital district are given hill area allowance at par with those working in Dehradun;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor when the height and geographical conditions of the foothill areas of Dehradun and Nainital district are same; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The information is being collected.

[English]

Loans Advanced by Nationalised Banks for Construction of Leased Accommodation for their Branches

5809. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans advanced by the nationalised banks for construction of leased accommodation for their branches;

(b) the rate of interest charged on such advances;

(c) the criteria fixed for determining the monthly lease amount; and

(d) the reasons for acquiring leased accommodation and not having their own accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the present data collecting system does not yield this information.

(b) Advances to landlords/lessors of premises are treated as term loan and as such the interest chargeable on such advances is the same as applicable to all other term loans which is presently 15% (minimum) per annum.

(c) The rent is generally fixed by the banks taking into consideration various aspects such as location of the premises, prevailing market rent in the area, facilities to be provided by the landlord, etc. and within