

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Yes. Even before this Conference, the Central Government had considered this question. In view of the fact that coal is a basic raw material for major industries spread out all over India, and also the main fuel for an essential service like the Railways, the Government of India has taken the view that the plan and programme for the development of coal must be a national plan. Accordingly, the Central Government's policy has been that, where the State Governments are interested in exploitation of coal, they should do so in collaboration with the Central Government, and not independently of the latter. This also ensures the best utilisation of the country's limited resources, both in finance and manpower. Suitable schemes of such collaboration are already in operation in a couple of States.

Employees of Comptroller and Auditor General's Office

496A. Shri Ram Garib: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent Office Order issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, all Sub-ordinate Accounts Service qualified and those who have been granted permanent exemptions from passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and those who hold a lien on any permanent post in their Office have been asked to opt for the Field Offices on a pro-forma basis;

(b) if so, how far the Comptroller and Auditor General is justified in uprooting this staff who were confirmed in this Office by his predecessors;

(c) whether all the persons concerned have since given their option and they have been allotted the respective field offices;

(d) whether it is a fact that this policy will jeopardise the chances of

promotions of Subordinate Accounts Service staff in the Field Offices;

(e) whether it is a fact that some permanent exemptees from passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination have not been allotted any Field Office; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative who are they and what are the reasons for their retention in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is competent to transfer such persons to any other office within the Indian Audit and Accounts Department or to any office under the Central Government on such terms and conditions as may be determined in each case.

(c) Yes, Sir, except two referred to in reply to part (f) of the question.

(d) No, Sir. The chances of promotion of the Subordinate Accounts Service staff in the field offices will, more or less, remain the same in view of the large demands on the Department for deputation posts in Public Corporations, Public Undertakings, State Governments, Central Government, etc.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Sarvashri Kishan Chand and U. N. Bhattacharyya. They are at present on extension of service on attaining the age of 55 years and might retire on the expiry of the present extension, if they are not found suitable for further retention in service.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Cut in Coal Allocations to Industries

S.N.Q. 3. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Controller has announced a sub-