

(a) whether the Bidi Workers of Godha and Gohalpur (Jabalpur M.P.) had launched an agitation in protest against Government's decision regarding fixing of wages and provision of other amenities;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Prithvi Missile

75. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to beef up its military arsenal and launch a diplomatic offensive as a part of three-pronged strategy to India's Prithvi missile;

(b) if so, whether this decision of Pakistan violate the agreement reached between the two countries at the Secretary-level talks held in Islamabad;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has again initiated propaganda against India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (d) Government are aware that Pakistan maintains a military arsenal far in excess of its legitimate defence requirements. Government are also aware of its persistent propaganda regarding the Prithvi missiles. Such propaganda is inconsistent with the firm intention of both countries to eschew hostile propaganda and provocative actions. This intention is contained in the Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in Islamabad in June 1997. Government is carefully and continuously assessing the implications of Pakistan's military build-up and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the national security.

Indo-US Relation

76. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh initiatives have been taken to strengthen Indo-US cooperation in the era of liberalisation;

(b) whether the President of USA has accepted the invitation to visit India during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Government of India and the Government of the United States have recently had useful discussions during the June, 1997 visit to the US by Minister of State for External Affairs. Issues of mutual interest in the bilateral and international context were discussed during this visit in keeping with the desire of both countries to have a broad-based dialogue and relationship.

(b) and (c) Government have been informed that the US President is considering a visit to India during the 50th Anniversary celebrations of India's independence

[Translation]

IAS Officers

77. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) sanctioned strength of IAS officers in the country, State-wise, as on date;

(b) actual strength of IAS officers in the country, State-wise, as on date;

(c) whether orders regarding reservation for SC/ST/OBC are implemented in appointments of IAS officers;

(d) if so, the number of SC/ST/OBC/IAS officers at present in each State;

(e) the number of vacant posts of IAS reserved for SC/ST/OBC, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of IAS cadres, state wise, as on 17th July, 1997 and actual strength of IAS officers as on 17th July, 1997, is given in the attached statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of SC/ST/OBC IAS officers State-wise, as on 17th July, 1997, is given in the attached statement-II.

(e) Reservation in the IAS for SC/ST/OBC is vacancy based and not post based. All vacancies in the IAS are filled up in accordance with the reservation policy of the Government.

(f) In view of the answer at (e) above, the question does not arise.

Statement-I*Existing cadre strength of the Indian Administrative service (As on 17.7.1997)*

Sl. No.	Cadre	Senior Posts under State Govt.	Posts Under Central Govt.	State Deputation Reserve	Leave Training Reserve & Junior Posts	Direct Recruitment Posts	Promotion Posts	Total Authorised Strength	Actual Number of IAS Officers in position
		(SDP)	(CDR) (⊕ 40% of SDP)	(SDR) (⊕ 25% of SDP)	(OR) (⊕ 20% of SDP)	(DR) (SDP+CDR +SDR+OR +PQ)	(PQ) (33.1/3% of SDP+CDR)	(TAS) (DR+PQ)	
		[Col. (7) + (8)]							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159	64	60	31	240	74	314	311
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	126	50	31	25	174	58	232	232
	Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories								
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	110	44	31	22	156	51	207	213
4.	Bihar	212	85	53	42	294	98	392	336
5.	Gujarat	116	46	51	23	182	54	236	222
6.	Haryana	115	46	28	23	159	53	212	189
7.	Himachal Pradesh	71	28	18	14	98	33	131	125
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	61	24	15	12	70	42	112	105
9.	Karnataka	127	51	50	25	194	19	253	261
10.	Kerala	93	37	23	18	128	43	171	157
11.	Madhya Pradesh	204	82	51	40	282	95	377	394
12.	Maharashtra	190	76	47	38	263	88	351	357
13.	Manipur-Tripura	107	43	27	21	149	49	198	160
14.	Nagaland	35	14	8	7	48	16	64	43
15.	Orissa	108	43	27	21	149	50	199	196
16.	Punjab	99	40	35	19	147	46	193	189
17.	Rajasthan	141	56	35	28	195	15	260	236
18.	Sikkim	27	11	7	5	38	5	53	40
19.	Tamilnadu	175	70	43	35	242	81	323	317
20.	Uttar Pradesh	271	108	94	54	401	126	527	534
21.	West Bengal	158	63	40	31	219	73	292	297
Total		2705	1081	774	534	3828	1269	5097	4914

Statement-II
Number of SC/ST/OBC IAS Officers

S.No.	Cadre	Number of SC/ST Officers (OBC Officers included in others)
1	2	3
1.	Assam Meghalaya	213
	SC	8
	ST	28
	Others	177
2.	Andhra Pradesh	311
	SC	40
	ST	16
	Others	255
3.	Bihar	336
	SC	31
	ST	25
	Others	280
4.	Gujarat	222
	SC	20
	ST	9
	Others	193
5.	Himachal	125
	SC	8
	ST	13
	Others	104
6.	Haryana	189
	SC	31
	ST	2
	Others	156
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	105
	SC	8
	ST	5
	Others	92
8.	Kerala	157
	SC	23
	ST	5
	Others	129
9.	Karnataka	261
	SC	34
	ST	9
	Others	218

1	2	3
10.	Maharashtra	357
	SC	40
	ST	10
	Others	307
11.	Madhya Pradesh	394
	SC	39
	ST	16
	Others	339
12.	Manipur-Tripura	160
	SC	6
	ST	28
	Others	126
13.	Nagaland	43
	SC	0
	ST	14
	Others	29
14.	Orissa	196
	SC	18
	ST	7
	Others	171
15.	Punjab	189
	SC	28
	ST	0
	Others	161
16.	Rajasthan	236
	SC	26
	ST	14
	Others	196
17.	Sikkim	40
	SC	4
	ST	12
	Others	24
18.	Tamil Nadu	317
	SC	49
	ST	12
	Others	256
19.	Uttar Pradesh	534
	SC	72
	ST	14
	Others	448

1	2	3
20.	AGMUT	232
	SC	27
	ST	17
	Others	188
21.	West Bengal	297
	SC	28
	ST	12
	Others	257
Total		4914
	SC	540
	ST	268
	Others	4106

Note: Others category includes OBC IAS officers. OBC figures have been separately compiled only from 1995. The State-wise break-up of OBCs recruited in the service from 1995 onwards are as follows:-

S.No.	Cadre	Number of OBC IAS officers recruited since 1995
1	2	3
1.	Assam Meghalaya	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2
6.	Haryana	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Kerala	1
9.	Karnataka	1
10.	Maharashtra	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2
12.	Manipur-Tripura	2
13.	Nagaland	-
14.	Orissa	2
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Rajasthan	3

1	2	3
17.	Sikkim	1
18.	Tamil Nadu	4
19.	Uttar Pradesh	8
20.	AGMUT	3
21.	West Bengal	1
Total		51

[English]

Human Trafficking

78. DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased refer to reply given to starred question No. 21 on 24 February, 1997 and state:

(a) the outcome of the detailed enquiry made regarding organised gang engaged in human trafficking to Saudi Arabia;

(b) the procedural changes made to ensure that children are not taken abroad and abused for begging or in any other manner;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman dated 8th March, 1997 stating that there are over 2000 children, mostly girls in Saudi Arabia and if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) steps taken to put an end to this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA) A copy of the statement laid on the Table of the House as a reply to Starred Question No 21 on February 24, 1997 is attached.

(a) The Government of West Bengal has been requested to conduct a detailed inquiry into the operation of any organised gang engaged in trafficking of children to Saudi Arabia, after deportation of 124 children, who were caught begging in Jeddah and the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, in two batches in January and February, 1997. The investigation are still continuing and according to the interim report on the investigation, the children were taken by either parents/distant relatives or local touts in West Bengal. Mostly the guardians themselves had sent their wards on monetary consideration or assurances of remuneration for sparing their wards for beggary in Saudi Arabia. There has been no allegation of any girl being used for immoral purposes. All the children were reportedly taken on valid passports of their parents, distant relatives or local touts.

(b) and (d) Procedures have been tightened to ensure that children travelling abroad are in fact accompanying