

**Naval Base in Kachchativu Island**

8098. Shri Kiruttinan: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to build up a Naval base in the Kachchativu Island near Rameswaram?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): No, Sir.

**Technical Staff in A.I.R.**

8099. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3182 on the 4th April, 1966 and state:

(a) the progress since made in filling up the vacant posts in class I engineering cadre;

(b) the total number of permanent posts of Class III technical staff against which no confirmation has been made so far; and

(c) the time expected to be taken for doing this?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) Out of 4½ posts reported vacant on 1st March, 1966 in reply to question No. 3182 of the 4th April, 1966, 41 posts have since been filled in. However, during the period from 1st March, 1966 to 31st July, 1967, 130 more posts were created in Class I engineering cadres. At present a total of 36 posts in Class I engineering cadres are lying vacant.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

**Technical Staff in A.I.R.**

8100. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question

No. 639 on the 7th November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that qualified and suitable persons are available in the All India Radio for filling up the posts of draughtsmen and tracers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not filling up the vacancies so far; and

(c) whether the Employment Exchange has given a 'Non-Availability' Certificate?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For want of adequate workload and in view of the pressing need for economy, only two posts each in the category of Draughtsman Grade I and II have been filled up. However, with the finalisation of the Fourth Plan proposals, more posts of Draughtsman, Tracer etc. will be filled up consistent with the additional work-load.

(c) No, Sir.

**"Attache (Geography)" in U.S. Embassy, New Delhi**

8101. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an Attache in U.S. Embassy in New Delhi whose designation is Attache (Geography); and

(b) if so, what are his duties in this country?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) There is an official in the U.S. Embassy designated as "Geographic Attache".

(b) The duties of any diplomatic official may consist of whatever functions permitted under international