

(a) the number and names of languages regarded as regional in the Armed Forces for the recruits and other Active Servicemen hailing from the Northern and North-Western States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any facilities are made available to the Army Personnel belonging to these areas for acquiring proficiency in these languages; and

(c) if so, the nature of these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) The medium of instruction and the recognised language in the Army is Hindi. No other regional language as such is recognised.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Chairman and managing director in Bharat Earth Movers Limited

8990. SHRI NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Earth Movers Limited is having both a part time Chairman and full time Managing Director, even though the Administrative Reforms Commission and the Committee on Public Undertakings have disapproved of this practice;

(b) whether the Committee on Public Undertakings has not found it possible to justify the maintenance of these two Principal Functionaries; and

(c) if so, the period by which the Government would implement this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Bharat Earth Movers Limited at present, has a part-time Chairman and also a full-time Managing Director. The Government have considered the observations of the Committee on Public

Undertakings but it is not proposed to make any change in the present arrangement in the case of this Company for the time being.

Delay in execution of project, Bharat Earth Movers Limited

8991. PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Public Undertakings has not been satisfied with reply furnished by the Ministry of Defence regarding the delay of two years in the execution of the Project B.E.M.L. (vide 26th Report concerning the Bharat Earth Movers Limited);

(b) if so, whether Government propose to avoid such situations in future; and

(c) the reasons for which the Government waited for two years for the availability of Foreign Exchange from U.S. Sources, even after their inability had become definitely known?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Government has in its reply to the Committee on Public Undertakings already fully explained the circumstances resulting in the delay of two years (from 1965 to 1967) in the implementation of the Heavy Earthmoving equipment project of Bharat Earth Movers Limited.

2. It will always be Government's endeavour to avoid delays in the execution of projects. In this particular case, it was decided to wait for the availability of foreign exchange from US Sources until the middle of 1967, for the following reasons:

(i) the USA was considered to be a suitable source in respect of the capital equipment required for the project;

(ii) the foreign exchange involved was large and there were difficulties of covering it from other sources.