

and various types of military hardware from a number of countries like China, France, West Germany, U.K. and Sweden.

**Indo-Japanese agreement in  
Science and Technology**

2560. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Japanese agreement is likely to be signed in the field of science and technology;

(b) whether any discussion in this regard has been concluded with Japan; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). An Agreement on Science and Technology Co-operation was signed in Tokyo on November 29, 1985. Follow up actions on the implementation of the Agreement will be discussed between the two sides at the first meeting of the Joint Committee to be set up under this Agreement. The dates for this meeting are yet to be finalised.

**Postponement of elections of Delhi  
Cantonment Board**

2561. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of Military units stationed in Delhi Cantonment are registered as voters in the ward in which their units are located or in the respective wards in which the individual voters reside or at both the places;

(b) the number of voters in each ward who have been registered at both the places;

(c) whether one of the two principles mentioned above and followed by Government is consistent with the provisions defining 'resident' and 'voter' contained in the

Cantonment Act, 1924 applied to each ward; and

(d) if not, whether Government will postpone the ensuing elections to the Delhi Cantonment Board in view of the elections otherwise being illegal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) The Electoral Rolls of voters in the Cantonment Boards are prepared in accordance with Rule 7 of the Cantonment Electoral Rules, 1945 framed under the Cantonments Act, 1924. Where members of the armed forces and other defence personnel reside in the unit lines, their names get registered in the lists received from the officers Commanding the Units. Where they are not residing in unit lines but in other areas which fall within individual wards, they are registered as voters at the place of their residence and in the units to which they belong.

(b) On the preliminary rolls published by the Board on the 1st of July, 1985, only 4 objections were preferred relating to the entries in the Rolls being duplicate. 2 objections relate to Ward No. II and the remaining 2 pertain to Ward No. VII.

(c) and (d). There is no inconsistency. The question of postponement of elections to the Delhi Cantonment Board for this reason, therefore, does not arise.

**Extinction of floricious bird**

2562. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the migratory bird Floricious which used to visit Rajasthan in large numbers is on the verge of extinction; and

(b) if so, reasons thereof and corrective steps taken/proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The Florican is not on the verge of extinction but its numbers have greatly decreased.

(b) According to the information received from the State Government, strict protection is being provided to the bird in some of its breeding sites, near Ajmer, Jaipur, Pali and Alwar. The hunting of this bird is not permitted anywhere in India.

**Employment to widows on  
compassionate grounds**

2563. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the event of death of a civilian employee of his Ministry, one of his family Member is given employment on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the number and details of widows employed in his Ministry on compassionate grounds during the last one year upto 30 October, 1985;

(c) the number of cases pending, full details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the pending cases of employment to widows on compassionate grounds will be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). In accordance with the existing instructions, Ministries/Departments are competent to appoint, to a Group 'C' or a Group 'D' post, in relaxation of the normal procedure of recruitment through Staff Selection Commission or Employment Exchange, the son/daughter/ near relative of a Government servant, who dies in harness, leaving his family in immediate need of assistance in the event of there being no other earning member in the family. The appointment is, however, subject to fulfilment of educational qualifications and other conditions laid down in the relevant recruitment rules.

In so far as Ministry of Defence Secretariat is concerned, three dependents, none of them being a widow of the deceased employee, were given employment, on compassionate grounds, during the last one year upto 30.10.1985.

The cases of compassionate employment are expeditiously disposed of and no such case is pending in the Ministry of Defence Sectt.

**News item captioned earthquakes of  
Himalayan magnitude predicted**

2564. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Hindustan Times on 25 October, 1985 captioned "Earthquakes of Himalayan magnitude predicted" wherein an American scientist has predicted the occurrence of damaging earthquakes in India particularly in the North and the North-east in the near future;

(b) if so, what advice or word of caution Government would like to give to the people; and

(c) what have our Seismologists to say in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Earthquakes are a phenomena which have been taking place in India from times immemorial. Their recurrence cannot be denied or predicted. The Himalaya and the Northeastern region are part of a worldwide zone of earth-quakes. The currently held geological views are that these earthquakes are caused by the Northeastward movement of the Indian land mass which is apparently slipping slowly beneath Eurasian land mass. This interaction, coupled with some geological processes taking place at great depths may cause earthquakes in the foot hill regions of Himalaya, Indo-Gangetic plains, interior of the Himalaya, Shillong Plateau and the Northeastern region.