

(a) the total number of battalions of para-military forces in 1981 and in 1987; and

(b) the amount spent on them during 1987 towards maintenance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total strength of para-military forces, namely Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Assam Rifles and Indo-Tibetan Border Police as on 1-12-81 and 1-12-87 was 182 Battalions and 241 Battalions respectively. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) which is not organised on battalion pattern had a sanctioned strength of 42,825 personnel as on 1-12-81. The strength of CISF and the National Security Guards (raised in 1984) as on 1-11-87 was 70, 577.

(b) Total expenditure incurred on all the above mentioned para-military forces for the period April-December, 1987 was Rs. 555.04 crores.

#### Voting Rights on N.R.Is.

5930. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian nationals living abroad are denied franchise in the countries they lived;

(b) whether the New York based NRIs urged the Government to allow Indian Nationals living abroad to vote in national elections; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give voting rights to the Indian nationals living abroad for national elections in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) It is quite likely that Indian Nationals who are living in foreign countries and who are retaining their Indian citizenship, may not have the

right to participate in the elections in those countries in terms of the relevant laws applicable to such persons in those countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Deputationists in Ministries

5931. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers on deputation in different Ministries of Union Government as on 31 March, 1988; and

(b) steps taken to reduce the deputations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Deputation is a recognised method of recruitment for filling up posts and is prescribed where necessary. Information about the number of officers on deputation in various Ministries is not centrally available.

#### Modernisation of CRPF

5932. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for modernisation of CRPF; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of large expansion of Central Reserve Police Force and taking into account its deployment for law and order duties in Punjab, North Eastern Region and Sri Lanka etc. some specific areas in weaponry, light vehicles, night vision devices and sophisticated telecommunication system have been identified for its