

Employment Opportunities for the Blind

1427. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new avenues of employment and rehabilitation opportunities have been opened up for the blind by National Institute for the Visually Handicapped;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether the scope will be extended further throughout the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Institute has developed and introduced the following programmes :—

- (i) Stenography for visually handicapped;
- (ii) Cutting and tailoring for visually handicapped women;
- (iii) Placement of visually handicapped extraneers of the Institute in subordinate posts in nationalised banks.

(c) The Institute has no plans to run similar programmes in other parts of the country. However, if any voluntary organisation or State Government wants to adopt such programmes, the Ministry can assist them.

Establishment of G.S.L.V. at Valiamala, Kerala

1428 SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISRO proposes to establish a Geo-Stationary Launch Vehicle Station (G.S.L.V) and a Liquid Fuel Development Unit at Valiamala, Nedumangad, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details 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) and (b) There is no proposal to establish a Geo-Stationary Launch Vehicle Station at Valiamala. The liquid fuels required for launch vehicles are produced by a number of industries in the country, partly based on the know-how developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Trivandrum, of Indian Space Research Organisation. The main activities now located in Valiamala relate to the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Project and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Unit, besides a few technical divisions and activities of VSSC.

Recommendations of High Level Committee on Ex-servicemen Problems

1429 SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by Government from National Ex-servicemen Coordination Committee in regard to the certain anomalies in the recommendations of the High Level Committee viz. counting of military service for pay fixation, promotion etc. on re-employment; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representations are against some of the recommendations of the High Level Committee on problems of Ex-servicemen which have been accepted by Government. However, the issues raised are being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries to ascertain whether any change in the decisions of Govt. and consequent disregard of the recommendations of the High Level Committee would be justified.