

(घ) सोसायटी की तरफ से ऐसा कोई प्रतिनिधि मंडल नहीं भ्राया, जिसने खास तौर पर यह मांग की हो कि सीलों में की गई यह कमी बहाल कर दी जाय। इसलिए उस पर कोई फैसला करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

#### Continuation of Tripartite Apex Body

598. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tripartite Apex Body was formed to keep watch on the industrial relations in the country during emergency;

(b) whether the said Body still continues to function; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) A Bipartite (and not Tripartite) National Apex Body was formed during emergency.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Changes in Diplomatic Posts

599. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning for a change at high level diplomatic posts; and

(b) if so, when it will be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). As the manning of high-level Diplomatic Posts abroad is a matter of considerable importance, the question of send-

ing appropriate persons from within the Foreign Service or from public life to represent the country is a matter that constantly engages the attention of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Changes are made from time to time in the public interest.

#### Passports Impounded during Emergency

600. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports impounded during emergency;

(b) how many of them belonged to people with political background;

(c) how many of them belonged to businessmen; and

(d) whether the persons in authority concerned have been proceeded against and the impounded passports have been returned?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (d). During the Emergency, the total number of persons whose passports were impounded or to whom passport facilities were denied, for political or economic reasons, by invoking the provision in the Passports Act, 1967 relating to the interests of general public was 2,023. The passports of 237 persons were impounded or passport facilities denied for political reasons, e.g. anti-Emergency activities. Passport facilities were withdrawn or withheld in 1,786 cases for economic reasons under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act. In 256 cases impounding and refusal orders have been cancelled. Passports have not yet been returned in the case of 1,767 persons as the matter is under consideration. The action taken to impound passports or withhold passport facilities was taken under the authority and with the approval of the Ministers concerned.