

propose to repeal the Bonus Act.

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA):** There is no proposal to repeal the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. However, demands have been received for amendment of the Act in certain respects and these are being considered.

**Statement by Mr. Richard Nixon about
alleged plan of former Prime Minister
of India to invade Pakistan**

1501. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD
VERMA:
SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the former President of U.S.A., Mr. Richard Nixon, had made a statement that Smt. Indira Gandhi's Government had planned to invade and capture West Pakistan in 1971; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to that allegation?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Defence Minister Shri Jagjivan Ram has contradicted the statement of Mr. Nixon stressing that it was never a decision of the Indian cabinet to invade Pakistan in 1971. Prime Minister has also rejected Mr. Nixon's statement against the previous Indian Government.

**Statement made by Indian High Com-
missioner in U.K.**

1502. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR
RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards a news item published in a local daily dated 11th August, 1976 in which Shri B. K. Neirru, Indian High Commissioner in U.K., referring to Shri K. K. Birla's speech, is reported to have said in London that he agreed entirely with what Mr. Birla had said; and

(b) if so, has the Government asked the High Commissioner as to why he supported such a controversial speech against all norms of Ambassadorial post?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE):** (a) A Samachar report carried in the Indian press on 11th August, 1976 reported the High Commissioner of India in London as having agreed with Shri Birla's view that the emergency should have been declared much earlier.

(b) The High Commissioner has explained that the thrust of his extempore speech on that occasion was that failure to enforce the law for many years had caused conditions in India to deteriorate to such an extent that the country was moving to a state of chaos which was checked by the emergency.

Instructions had been issued by the former Government to Indian Missions abroad to explain and justify the declaration of Emergency along with background information. It is one of the duties of Representatives serving in Missions abroad to explain as plausibly as possible to justify actions and policies of the Government that is in power.

भाबादपुर, बिहार में उपडाकघर
खोलना

1503. श्री सुबराज : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के कटिहार जिले में आबादपुर में कोई उप-डाक घर नहीं है जबकि पश्चिम बंगाल के पश्चिम दीनाजपुर और मालदह जिलों के निकट स्थित है जो कि सीमान्त जिले है ;

(ख) क्या प्रशासकीय एवं सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण से डाक तथा तार सेवायें यहां के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो आबादपुर में उप डाकघर कब तक खोला जाएगा और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री जाबं फर्नानडिस) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) यहां विभागेतर शाखा डाकघर की व्यवस्था है जिससे उपयुक्त डाक सुविधाएं मिल जाती हैं । प्रशासनिक महत्व के स्थानों पर घाटा उठाकर भी तार और टेलीफोन सेवाएं देने के लिए सरकार उदार नीति अपना रही है । सामान्य इलाकों के मामलों में 5000 से अधिक आबादी वाले स्थानों और पहाड़ी या पिछड़े इलाकों में 2500 से अधिक आबादी वाले स्थान में घाटा उठा कर भी, कम से कम आप की शर्तों के अनुसार, तार सुविधाएं देने के बारे में विचार किया जाता है । उदारीकृत शर्तों के अधीन भी, आबादपुर इन सेवाओं की व्यवस्था के लिए उचित नहीं ठहरता ।

(ग) विभागेतर शाखा डाकघर का दर्जा बढ़ा कर उसे विभागीय उप डाकघर बनाने का पहले औचित्य नहीं ठहरता थ । इस मामले की पुनः जांच की जा रही है ।

स्वीडन से विदेशी सहायता

1504. श्री रामानन्द तिवारी : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय को स्वीडन से कोई विदेशी सहायता प्राप्त हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी और किस रूप में; और

(ग) उसकी शर्तें क्या हैं ।

स्वास्थ्य, और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राज नारायण) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथासमय भेज दिया जाएगा ।

Debts on Industrial Workers

1505. SHRI KARPOORI THAKUR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the burden of personal debts on industrial workers has increased during the past few years;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to make them free from these debts; and

(c) outlines of the Scheme being formulated by Government to check the exploitation of industrial labourers by the usurers in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c). Comparable figures indicating increase or decrease of indebtedness are not available. According to a Pilot Survey conducted at Delhi recently, the comparative figures of average indebtedness for working