

(b) if so, outlines of the amendment?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). The provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 have been reviewed by the National Commission on Labour (1969), the Labour Laws Review Committee, Gujarat, (1974) and the Law Commission of India (1974) and they have made a number of recommendations for amendment to the Act. The views of the State Governments and other interests concerned have been invited on these recommendations. However, the following two amendments have already been made by the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1976:—

- (i) Raising the wage limit for coverage under the Act from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 p.m., and
- (ii) Enhancing the rates of compensation payable under the Act.

Reinstatement of Employees in Industrial Undertakings by State Governments

1513. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to initiate steps to get forthwith all the employees in industrial undertakings both in the public and private sector reinstated who were victimised during the emergency;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments thereto;

(c) how many such victimised employees have so far been reinstated State-wise; and

(d) the number of such victimised workers in different States?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VAMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The response of State Governments has been encouraging.

(c) and (d). State-wise particulars are awaited.

श्री लंका में भारत मूलक व्यक्तियों को नागरिकता प्रदान करना

1514. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत मूलक व्यक्तियों को श्रीलंका की नागरिकता प्रदान करने के बारे में दोनों देशों की सरकारों के बीच हुई बातचीत के संबंध में वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) कितने लोगों को वहाँ की नागरिकता दी जा चुकी है और बाकी लोगों के बारे में स्थिति क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या भारत सरकार ने उनमें से कुछ लोगों को भारत लौटने की अनुमति दे दी है और यदि हाँ, तो उनकी संख्या कितनी है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी)

(क) से (ग). श्रीलंका में भारतीय मूल के लोगों के विषय में भारत और श्रीलंका के बीच 1964 और 1974 में सम्पन्न समझौतों के अन्तर्गत श्रीलंका ने भारतीय मूल के 375,000 व्यक्तियों को, उनकी संतानों के कारण सहज वृद्धि सहित, श्रीलंका की नागरिकता देना स्वीकार किया है, और भारत ने भारतीय मूल के ऐसे 600,000 लोगों को उनकी संतानों के कारण सहज वृद्धि सहित, भारतीय नागरिकता प्रदान करना तथा 1979 तक चरणबद्ध ढंग से उन्हें भारत प्रत्यावर्तित करना स्वीकार किया है ।

30-4-1977 तक श्रीलंका ने ऐसे 145,006 लोगों को, उनकी संतानों के कारण इस संख्या में होने वाली सहज वृद्धि सहित, श्रीलंका की नागरिकता प्रदान कर दी थी और भारत ने ऐसे 288,613 लोगों को, उनकी संतानों के कारण इस संख्या में होने वाली स्वाभाविक वृद्धि के सहित, भारत की नागरिकता प्रदान की थी। ऐसे 199,968 व्यक्ति, अपने संतान के कारण हुई सहज वृद्धि सहित, 31-3-1977 तक भारत प्रत्यावर्तित किये जा चुके थे। शेष आवेदन-पत्र संबद्ध प्राधिकारियों के विचाराधीन हैं।

Reduction in number of Indian Embassies and Consulates Abroad

1515. SHRI JOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the number of embassies and consulates abroad to reduce unproductive foreign exchange drain;

(b) how many non-career diplomats are now holding diplomatic assignments abroad;

(c) how many of them have resigned/been recalled with the permission of new Government; and

(d) whether Government will ensure that the political patronage granted to such persons is discontinued forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) According to diplomatic practice, establishment of diplomatic Missions is on a reciprocal basis. Government, however, from time to time reviews the number of Embassies and Consulates abroad. Government does not consider that Embassies and Consulates abroad represent an unproductive drain on foreign exchange. As a result of the

enforcement of economy measures, including efforts to contain the growth in staff to the maximum extent possible, expenditure is being minimised despite inflationary trends and fluctuating exchange rates. It is anticipated that a saving of about Rs. 40 lakhs will be effected during 1977-78 as a result of economy measures which are being effected.

(b) There are 14 non-career Heads of diplomatic Missions abroad. This includes officials and career diplomats who have on superannuation been re-employed as Heads of diplomatic Mission.

There are approximately one hundred and fifty other officials abroad now from Ministries other than External Affairs holding diplomatic status.

(c) None.

(d) Government do not consider that an assignment abroad is political patronage.

Local Call Radius in Kerala

1516. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria has since been adopted by the Government to increase the local call radius at par with Delhi in Kerala State;

(b) whether Changanachary and Ettumammore is 14 miles from Kottayam Telephone Exchange and are not under one local call system;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to bring Changanachary and Ettumammore under Kottayam Telephone Exchange for local call facilities in these areas; and

(e) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Local area of a