

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The conditions of Non-Returnable Contribution enable interested parties to get Post Offices opened by payment of specified contribution even though the Post Office is not justified in accordance with the norms of the P&T Department. State Governments and other interested parties have been getting Post Offices, especially, where required for administrative or other reasons, by payment of Non-Returnable Contribution. The withdrawal of this facility will cause unnecessary hardship to such parties.

Scheme for disbursing Pensions through Post Offices in H.P. to Railway Officers and Ex-Servicemen

2215. **SHRI DURGA CHAND:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a scheme in Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh for disbursing pensions to railway officers and ex-servicemen through Post Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) The facility for disbursement of pensions to Ex-servicemen and retired railway employees through post offices in Himachal Pradesh is already available.

(b) (i) Disbursement of pension to Ex-servicemen:

14 Head Post Offices, 333 Sub Post Offices and 309 Branch Post Offices are authorised for disbursement of pension sanctioned by the Military authorities to Indian Military pensioners and ex-servicemen. It is paid quarterly on personal appearance of the pensioner

but it can also be paid through representatives to old, aged and infirm pensioners.

(ii) Disbursement of pension to the railway pensioners;

The salient features of the scheme are as follows:—

(1) The amount of pension will be credited automatically to the post office Savings Bank account of the retired employees on the first working day of every month. A separate series of Post Offices Savings Bank accounts will be operated for this purpose;

(2) No bill is required to be presented every month by the pensioner for his pension;

(3) The pensioner will be required to apply for the opening of a Saving Bank account (Pension) in the particular post office in which he wants to draw his pension;

(4) All the railway pensioners can opt for the scheme. The scheme is available in all Head Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices in the country.

(5) The pension account can be opened in addition to the ordinary account in the same post office. The rate of interest applicable to the Savings Bank (Pension) account will be the same as in the case of single or joint account;

(c) Does not arise.

Ratifications of United Nations Conventions

2216. **SHRI DALIP CHAKRAVARTY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the two United Nations Covenants—one on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 and the other on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 still remain to be ratified by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for not ratifying the Covenants so far;

(c) whether Government propose to ratify these two Covenants now; and

(d) whether present Government of India as a believer in the principle of non-suspendable human rights propose to hold an international Convention on torture and of minimum standard for treatment of prisoners under detention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of India's accession to and ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights has been pending due to the need for detailed examination of the legal and constitutional implications of the various provisions in the two Covenants. Government is of the view that the matter should have been considered and acted upon at an earlier date. One of the earliest actions of the present Government was to renew consideration of the question of ratifying the two Covenants.

(c) The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

(d) As a strong supporter of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, India Co-sponsored a resolution adopted by the Social and Humanitarian Committee of the current 32nd General Assembly, urging the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. There is no proposal for holding any convention or conference in this regard.

Racket in Payment of Compensation to Coal Mine Workers in Dhanbad and Asansol Area

2217. **SHRI ROBIN SEN:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that

a lucrative racket in the payment of compensation to coal mine workers under Coal Mine Workmen's Compensation Act is active in Dhanbad and Asansol area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop this racketeering in the Coal-field area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में हिन्दी के प्रयोग में प्रगति

2218. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मंत्रालय मेंगत आठ महीनों में हिन्दी के उत्तरोत्तर प्रयोग हेतु क्या कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ किये गये हैं ;

(ख) क्या मंत्रालय के लिए कोई हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति है, और

(ग) यदि हा, तो समिति के सदस्य कौन-कौन हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री करिया मुष्ठा) : (क) इस मंत्रालय में पिछले 8 महीनों में सरकारी कामकाज में हिन्दी के उत्तरोत्तर प्रयोग के बारे में निम्नलिखित कदम उठाये गये हैं:—

1. सभी कर्मचारियों को, जिन के लिए हिन्दी/हिन्दी प्रामुखिपि/हिन्दी टंकण का प्रशिक्षण अनिवार्य है, प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए समय-बद्ध कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है ।