

Bonus to Bidi Workers

1509 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether any bonus is paid by bidi factory owners as per the decision of Government to pay minimum bonus of 8 3/4 per cent, and

(b) if so, the quantum of the amount still due to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) Payment of bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act 1965 is a statutory obligation. The State Governments are the 'appropriate Government' under the Act in respect of bidi factories/establishments.

(b) The information is not available.

Popularization of Parliamentary System in the Country

1510 DR BAPU KALDATY Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state,

(a) the steps taken by Government to popularise parliamentary system in the country

(b) whether special lectures, Seminars or Short-term courses have been arranged for the interested citizens

(c) whether any grant is made available to such institutions who are engaged in this type of work, and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR RAM KRIPAL SINHA) (a) to (d) With a view to strengthening the roots of democracy inculcating healthy habits of discipline and tolerance of the views of others, and enabling the student community to know about the

working of the Parliament, the Department of Parliamentary Affairs organises annually "Youth Parliament" Competitions in the recognised Higher Secondary Schools in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Central Government has been advising the State Governments from time to time to arrange Youth Parliament Competitions in the recognised schools in the States on the pattern of the Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for recognised educational institutions in the Union Territory of Delhi. A scheme of financial assistance has also been circulated to the State Governments under which expenditure incurred by each State upto a ceiling of Rs 1000/- will be reimbursed by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs Government of India for each Annual Competition.

The Department however, has not arranged any special lectures, seminars or short-term courses; nor has it made available direct grants to any institution engaged in this type of work.

Proper Publicity of the Development of Country Abroad

1511 DR BAPU KALDATY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that he found during his recent visits abroad (since May to October) that there was no proper publicity abroad about the developments in the country since April 1977

(b) if so whether Government have taken any steps to step up the external publicity and

(c) whether any special or experienced personnel have been deputed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE) (a) No Sir. On the contrary during my recent visit