

**Intervention by Central Government
in Strike of Maharashtra Government
Employees**

383. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government were approached by the employees of the Maharashtra Government for intervention in the strike that took place during December, 1977 and January, 1978 and settle their demands; and

(b) the steps taken by Government on their representation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI
RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b)
There was no such request to the Central Government, or the Central Industrial Relations Machinery. Nor could any action be taken under the Industrial Disputes Act in the case of strike by the Maharashtra State Government employees etc. The strike has since been called off.

**राष्ट्र भाषा जानने वाले राजदूत और काउंसलों
की प्रतिशतता**

384. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि विदेशों में स्थित कितने प्रतिशत भारतीय राजदूत और काउंसल राष्ट्र भाषा हिन्दी जानते हैं और उसका प्रयोग करते हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : विदेश स्थित सभी भारतीय मिशन और केन्द्र-प्रमुख न्यूनाधिक मात्रा में हिन्दी जानते हैं। उनके द्वारा हिन्दी का प्रयोग उनके भाषा ज्ञान और आवश्यकताओं पर निर्भर करता है।

**Meeting of Chinese Ambassador with
Foreign Minister**

385. SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH
SAYIN WALA: Will the Minister of
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Chinese Ambassador met him and they discussed broadly the step by step progress of the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what new measures are sought to be adopted towards complete normalisation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): (a) and (b) On 31st Decem-
ber 1977, the Chinese Ambassador met
the Minister of External Affairs. In
the course of discussions India's policy
of seeking an improvement of relations
with China on the basis of the Five
Principles was spelt out by the Minis-
ter of External Affairs. There was
broad agreement that both sides would
encourage exchanges in various fields
to the mutual benefit of both coun-
tries. A review of the on-going con-
tacts in the fields of trad., culture,
health, sports, etc., also took place
and further possibilities of exchanges
between India and China, on the princi-
ples of mutual benefit and reciprocity,
were also explored.

Simplification of Pass-Port Procedure

386. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI CHATURBHUIJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are con-
sidering any proposal to simplify fur-
ther the procedure of applying for
passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Govern-
ment are contemplating to allow the