

Salem Magnesite Factory

2688. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the reasons for not permitting the Salem Magnesite Factory to run at Salem and allowing the factory to run at Calcutta only from the very beginning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of Non-career Diplomats

2690. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy followed by Government since it assumed office to appoint non-career diplomats;

(b) the norms that are taken into consideration in selecting them;

(c) the details of super-annuated officers of various services who have been appointed to diplomatic posts after their retirement during 1977 and 1978 and how their suitability for such assignments was determined;

(d) countries of their posting, their pay and allowances and tenure of office; and

(e) whether no suitable serving officers in the Indian Foreign Service or other Services were available to man these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). The policy of Government and the norms followed in cases where non-career diplomats are appointed to Missions abroad is to select persons who, by virtue of their qualifications, experience and eminence in public life, would be most suitable for a particular assignment keeping in view the need for effectively projecting India and

forging closer bonds of co-operation and understanding with the country to which they are being accredited.

(c) and (d). General T. N. Raina, former Chief of Army Staff, has been appointed as High Commissioner of India to Canada in Grade-I of the Indian Foreign Service. There is no fixed tenure of his office.

(e) The question of sending appropriate persons from within the IFS or others to represent the country has to be decided not only in the context of availability of suitable officers from within the IFS but also keeping in mind overall interests of the country.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices into Sub-Post Offices in Morena District

2691. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of upgradation of Branch Post Offices into Sub-Post Offices in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh for next two years; and

(b) whether the upgradation of Sumawali Branch Post Office will be taken up in the near future and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHEO SAI): (a) It is proposed to upgrade 6 Branch Post Offices into Departmental Sub-Offices or extra-departmental Sub-Offices during the years 1978-79 and 1979-80. The number of Extra-departmental Branch Offices to be upgraded into Departmental Sub-Offices or extra-departmental Sub-Offices in 1980-81 has not been worked out so far.

(b) Proposal for the upgradation of Sumawali Branch Post Office has already been taken up and the same is being examined.