

changes in India Mines' Act and regulation, when visited India last;

(c) what are the recommendations made; and

(d) whether Government are considering to bring certain changes in Mines Act accordingly and the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). At the instance of the Government of India consultants under International Programme for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (PIACT) engaged by the International Labour Organisation visited India in December, 1978 to study and advise on problems relating to mines safety. A copy of recommendations of the consultants is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-2470/81]. They have recommended that statutory provision may be made for appointment of Workmen's Inspector. This recommendation will be considered alongwith other proposals for amendment of the Mines Act, 1952.

#### **Special Concessions to Air Officers in G.O.P. Branch**

**9218. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special concessions are given to officers of Air Force in G.O.P. branch apart from the flying bounty which they get;

(b) whether it is a fact that free breakfast facility, additional travel concessions, Rs. 75 additional pay in addition to flying bounty is given to Air Force Officers in G.O.P. branch and these facilities are denied to Air Force Officers holding the same ranks in engineering supply and other bran-

ches, and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) are Government aware that there is a great dissatisfaction amongst the officers in Air Force about this discrimination?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):** (a) and (b). The officer cadre of Indian Air Force is broadly divided into two branches, namely, General Duties and Ground Duties Branches. The former comprises the Pilots and the Navigators. Owing to the specialised nature of their duties, hazards involved and the opportunities available on the civil side, the officers of the General Duties Branch have always enjoyed a certain differential of pay, in addition to other allowances and concessions, including flying bounty (now called flying pay) in relation to officers of the Ground Duties Branch. The differential of pay in respect of officers of the flying branch is Rs. 75 for Pilot Officers, Rs. 80 for Flying Officers and Rs. 50 for Flight Lts, at the beginning of the scale only. Thereafter the pay-scales are identical. Certain Travel concessions are admissible to officers of all the three Services who are engaged on regular flying duties in accordance with the relevant Travel Regulations for the Defence Services. Pre-Flight Meals have been authorised as per the scales recommended by medical authorities to all aircrew officers/airmen irrespective of their branch who are engaged in actual flying duties, primarily as a flight safety measure which is considered essential.

(c) No Sir. The special/additional concessions admissible to officers of the General Duties Branch of the IAF in relation to officers of other Branches are based on sound and rational principles and there is no reason for officers in the other Branches to feel discontentment of this account.