

Selection of Indian spacemen for Training in USSR

2799. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian spacemen have since been selected and sent to U.S.S.R. for training; and

(b) if so, who are they and at what stage their training is at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Separate Employment Exchanges for Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen

2800. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-servicemen sometime face difficulties in recruitment against the reserve posts meant for them in the absence of proper supervision by Government;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide them due representation in both the Government Services and private sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some separate employment exchanges are proposed to be set up for the recruitment of ex-servicemen in the posts reserved for them;

(d) whether such employment exchanges are going to be set up in various States; and

(e) the total number of such employment exchanges which are proposed to be set up at different places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Ex-servicemen sometimes face difficulties in re-employment due to factors, such as the lack of adequate educational and technical qualifications for the jobs, reluctance of ex-servicemen to take up service outside their home State/District, non-acceptance of salaries offered to them, which are often lower than their emoluments in the Defence Forces. Greater emphasis has now been given on training Service personnel before their retirement in such a way that their skills are built up for appointment against jobs both in Government Services and Private Sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Wages of Bidi Workers in various States

2801. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the wages of Bidi workers in different States at present;

(b) whether any representations have been received by the Central Government to raise the wages of the Bidi workers; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) A Statement indicating the prevailing rates of minimum wages fixed by the various State Governments in respect of workers employed in the beedi industry is placed on the table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c). Certain representations were received demanding increase in the wages of the beedi workers. As State Governments are the appropriate Governments in respect of beedi industry under the Minimum Wages Act, these were forwarded to the respective State Government for action.