

Relations with Newly Independent African Nations

7439. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken in regard to the strengthening of India's relations with the newly independent African countries ; and

(b) the names of those countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government have expanded their diplomatic representation which now extends to almost all newly independent countries in Africa. Economic and trade exchanges are increasing, and cultural programmes are operating with many African countries. Indian Government scholarships are available to African students, and there is an ITEC programme functioning in several countries of Africa. On the political plane, an identity of views has developed on many international issues relating to world peace and cooperation.

Compensation to Workers killed on Duty

7441. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survivors of only those workers and employees killed on duty are liable to get compensation, whose salaries including allowances are below Rs. 500/per mensem ,

(b) whether Government regards this limit as inadequate in the present context ;

(c) whether any raising of this limit is contemplated ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to do the needful ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The question of raising the wage limit for eligibility for benefits both under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 is under consideration.

Resettlement of Ex-servicemen

7442. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been under taken to study the problems of resettlement of Ex-servicemen ;

(b) the date on which this survey commenced ;

(c) the date by which the report would be submitted ; and

(d) whether the Directorate General of Resettlement in the Ministry of Defence is also being consulted in this survey ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) January, 1971.

(c) and (d). The report has already been finalised and has been made available to the Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence at whose instance the survey was undertaken.

Ban on Indian Newsmen to cover Murree Talks

7443. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : SHRI M. RAJANGAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any ban imposed on Indian newsmen to visit Pakistan for covering the Murree talks ; and

(b) if so the reasons for the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). As the Pakistan Government had expressed their preference for keeping the gate of press publicity away from the Murree talks, it was decided that no Indian journalists be sent to cover them.

Trial of War Criminals in Bangladesh

7444. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan had asked the