

(c) whether Government propose to utilise the good offices of Japan to improve Sino-Indian relations and the response of the Japanese Government in this matter; and

(d) whether Government have initiated any further steps in this direction and, if so, the reaction of Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH)

(a) The Government is always hopeful that relations with China would improve.

(b) Foreign Minister mainly discussed bilateral relations with Japan.

(c) The policy of the Government of India is that bilateralism is the best way for normalisation or improvement of relations.

(d) The Government has continued to show its sincerity in normalising relations with China and the Government hopes that the Chinese would respond to it.

Recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission regarding E.P.F. Organisation

511. **SHRI R. P. YADAV:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations in brief of the Administrative Reforms Commission in regard to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) the recommendations that have been implemented; and

(c) the recommendations proposed to be implemented and the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) The Administrative Reforms Commission have

not made any recommendation in regard to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Percentage of S.C. and S.T. in Defence Establishments

512. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether percentage fixed for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been properly maintained in all Defence establishments,

(b) whether it is being done in the case of civilian employees in the Defence belonging to Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discontentment among Defence Employees due to non-submission of Pay Commission Report

513. **SHRI S. M BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a serious discontent among the Defence employees because of the non-submission of the Pay Commission Report; and

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) A large number of representations have been received from Trade Unions of Defence civilian employees, urging

that the report of the Pay Commission be submitted early.

(b) Government are in touch with the Pay Commission and it is hoped that the Commission would be able to submit their report as soon as practicable.

Bonus to Central Government Employees

514. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken regarding the payment of Bonus to all the Central Government employees including those working in the Defence Railways and Post and Telegraphs Department; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not taking a final decision?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). Such employees stand excluded from the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and it has been decided that the existing position should, for the present, be maintained.

Recognition of P.R.G. of South Vietnam

515. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government now propose to reconsider the question of recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam in the context of changed political situation in Indo-China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

As stated in the House on previous occasions, Government of India continues to maintain contacts with the P.R.G. of South Vietnam, and feels that no immediate changes are necessary in the present representational pattern in view of the fluid situation obtaining in South Vietnam.

Appointment of M/s. Nippon Steel of Japan as Consultants for TISCO

516. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved of the appointment of M/s. Nippon Steel of Japan as Consultants for the preparation of project report for the expansion of TISCO Ltd,

(b) the other expansion schemes sanctioned for other steel concerns in the country and the names of the consultants for preparing their expansion project reports; and

(c) the fees that have to be paid by TISCO to Nippon Steel and the consultants for preparing their report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Government have approved the preparation of a feasibility study by Nippon Steel of Japan for the expansion of the Steel Plant of TISCO.

(b) A detailed project report for expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant to 4 million tonnes of steel ingots is being prepared by the Central Engineering and Design Bureau. In the case of Bokaro Steel Plant, the detailed project report for setting up the plant of capacity of 4 million tonnes steel ingots was prepared by the USSR Authorities. Initially only the first stage of capacity of 1.7 million tonnes was approved. For the second stage of expansion upto 4 million