

category of Staff Artists. The vacancies are filled on regular basis in accordance with the normal procedure for recruitment.

Memorandum from All India Sampradavikta Virodhi Committee regarding Atrocities on Harijans and other minorities

1269. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Sampradavikta Virodhi Committee has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister mentioning therein *inter alia* the numerous complaints against the police and administration about the atrocities committed on Harijans and other minorities; and

(b) if so, the contents of the memorandum and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). Recently a Memorandum was received by the Prime Minister from the All India Sampradavikta Virodhi Committee. The memorandum refers to increased atrocities on and inadequate attention to the interests of Harijans in Punjab, Harviana, Maharashtra and West Bengal. It is of the view that in many of the States the problems of the Harijans and minorities are not being tackled in accordance with the principles laid down by National Integration Council and that complaints against police and the administration remain unattended to.

Government have been making continuous efforts to allay misapprehensions, remove grievances of religious and other minorities as well as weaker sections of the society and promote harmonious relations between the different communities. Government also maintain utmost vigilance with a view to preventing communal, regional or linguistic ten-

sions. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the National Integration Council regarding the communal situation has been indicated from time to time in reply to questions. It has repeatedly been impressed upon State Governments and Union Territory Administrations that prompt action should be taken against officers who are found wanting in the handling of communal situations. A one-Man Commission is conducting an inquiry into the Delhi disturbances. Associations whose activities are prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony and to the interests of National Integration can be dealt with under the provisions of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1972 and the activities of such organisations are constantly kept under watch.

Government's reaction towards harassment and oppression of the Scheduled Castes and the other weaker sections of the society is also well known. The State Chief Ministers have been addressed by the Prime Minister and advised to take preventive measures and prompt action whenever incidents of this nature occur. They have also been advised to take suitable action against officials found negligent in dealing with such situations. The Home Minister had also reiterated these suggestions on various occasions.

Industries in Punjab

1270. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of coal, rail wagons, power and immovability of both raw materials and finished products have affected various industries in Punjab particularly during the last six months;

(b) if so, names of the industries which have been affected most; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (c). Various industries in Punjab such as steel castings and forgings, M.S. Bolts & nuts, sewing machines, machine tools etc. have been affected due to short supply of power, steel, coal and other industrial raw materials. Every effort is being made to remove the various constraints on industries.

Indo-Canadian Co-operation in the Development of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes

1271. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Canadian Co-operation in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes continues even after the first atomic blast by India on 18th May, 1974 in Rajasthan; and

(b) if not, the areas and spheres from which the Canadian aid is reduced or withdrawn and the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The Indo-Canadian agreement for co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy is still in force. Discussions are in progress between India and Canada on certain points raised by Canada. These discussions have not yet been concluded.

Setting up of an Industrial Complex by Indian Rare Earths Limited near Chhatrapur in Orissa

1272. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI:

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made by now for setting up of an in-

dustrial complex near Chhatrapur in Orissa based on beach sand minerals in Orissa by the Indian Rare Earths Limited; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far for securing the necessary funds for investment?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The proposal for setting up an industrial complex based on the beach sand minerals in Orissa is under active consideration of Government. Preliminary steps are being taken by the Company regarding acquisition of land, consultancy arrangements and provision of infra-structure facilities. According to present indications, it is proposed to finance the project from the funds to be provided by Government and a consortium of financial institutions.

Number of persons arrested under MISA in recent Bihar Movements

1273. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) number of persons arrested under MISA in Bihar movements since March, 1974; and

(b) the number of cases referred to the Advisory Council/High Court and the detentions quashed or confirmed by them, separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.