

(a) whether an interview of successful candidates for appointment to the post of junior Overmen was held in November, 1997 in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring the result of aforesaid interview so far;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of junior Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(d) if so, the number of sanctioned posts of junior Overmen in the company and the number of employees working against these posts;

(e) the number of Junior Overmen retired in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for making appointments of Junior Overmen and also for safety of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) An interview for appointment to the post of Overman at Eastern Coalfields Limited was held in November, 1997.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the result could not be declared as the matter is subjudice before the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) Eastern Coalfields Limited has surplus of Overmen. Against the sanctioned strength of 1410, there are 1500 Overmen on the rolls of Eastern Coalfields Limited. There is no separate designated post of Junior Overman.

(e) Total number of Overman retired in last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of Overman Retired
1995-96	26 Heads
1996-97	34 Heads
1997-98	44 Heads

(f) Since there is already a surplus of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited, question of fresh appointment of Overmen does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Amendment in the Patent Act

3252. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to finalise draft bill for amending 1970 Patent Act was scheduled to be held in Delhi on 16th November, 1998 was adjourned without making any headway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to consider amendment to the Patent Act, 1970 was held on 11th November, 1998.

[*English*]

IRS Officers on Deputation

3253. CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers on deputation to various institutions in the country who have completed their tenure and are not being called for;

(b) the number of such officers who are on deputation even after having completed the maximum tenure permissible under the rules;

(c) whether the Government propose to call them back to join their original place of posting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) 26 (Twenty six). The tenure of the officers deputed to various organisations is governed by the rules regulating the appointment to the posts concerned. Extension in the deputation tenure of such officers is considered and granted by the borrowing