

stan. I can give you the example, Mr. Prime Minister—there was fear in our mind whether Pakistan would like us or not—that when the Indian football team has been to Peshawar, it was the Pakistan political leaders in the Government who came in the street, embraced our players for scoring the goals and expressed their goodwill. So, on every part, it was found that the goodwill was still there. But unfortunately whenever an initiative is taken by the Government, some international forces, by their own design, try to see that Indo-Pakistan relationship is not further gaining momentum. The contribution made by the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, who laid his life in Tashkent, was for a fast durable peace in Pakistan and India; followed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi's initiative in the Shimla Agreement; Shri Vajpayee, when he was the Foreign Minister, did a tremendous job to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan; and finally, in the SAARC Summit led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs. Bhutto had to say that India's intention was the best one so far as Pakistan was concerned.

May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether in his next process which he is likely to do with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Male, he is convinced or hopeful that it will be within the ambit of the Shimla Agreement?

Secondly, in view of the growing democratic development in Pakistan by taking away the powers of the President and all these things, is the Prime Minister fully convinced that the time has come that the international pressure, which has come from time to time to frustrate the relations between India and Pakistan will be totally stopped this time and will the Government of India, under no circumstances, submit to any kind of manipulations, machinations and power games in the sub-continent while deciding the relation between India and Pakistan straightaway?

We have full confidence in the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral, who is having personal, political and diplomatic experience. He is going to make a breakthrough and the nation should not question anything at this moment and should not embarrass him.

I would like to know whether the Shimla Agreement would cover the ambit of his discussion while he meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, while I think my young friend for complimenting me, on one point, I would not like to comment. That is, whatever is happening internally in Pakistan, whether the Constitution is amended or not amended, I am not going to comment on that. That is their business.

So far as the bilateral talks are concerned, the Shimla Agreement emphasises the bilateral talks. And, I think, the two rounds that have taken place at the Foreign Secretary level, at my level as the Foreign Minister and third that might take place in Male is within that ambit.

Retirement Age

*442. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended for raising retirement age of Government employees from 58 to 60 years;

(b) if so, whether implementation of this particular recommendation is likely to increase the number of educated unemployed; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) Yes Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended that the age of retirement of Central Government employees (except those in the Armed Forces, Central Police Organisations or on extension) be raised to 60 years with effect from a prospective date to be notified by the Government. The Commission has also recommended that since the present age of superannuation of Central Government employees has acted a bench mark for determining the ages of superannuation of other categories of employees, judicial officers, constitutional authorities etc. the Commission expects that its recommendation would lead to a suitable re-adjustment in order to maintain the present relativities.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Pay Commission are under the consideration of the Government.

Pay Commission

*451. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the inordinate delay in adoption of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether the Government have received threats from the Central Government employees to go on strike at any time on this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the expected date of adoption and implementation of the report; and

(e) the financial implications on account of implementation of the recommendations of the above commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There has been no delay in the consideration of the Report of the Pay Commission. In accordance with the established procedure, the recommendations are required to be scrutinised by an Empowered Committee, which has already met thrice. The views of the Staff Side are also required to be ascertained. A meeting has been held with them. The report is being processed further.

(b) and (c) The Government has not received any notice/threat from the Government employees to go on strike on this issue.