

(b) if so, whether the request to bring employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan under the jurisdiction of CAT has been acceded;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(d) The question of bringing the employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and some other organisations under the jurisdiction of CAT is dependent on the assessment of additional workload as a result thereof on the CAT. The additional information called for for this purpose has not been received from all the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

Economic Relations with South Korea

1119. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to improve bilateral economic relations with South Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a scope to further expand economic cooperation with that country;

(d) if so, the areas in which economic cooperation has been established in the past; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by both the countries to expand both Indo-Korean bilateral economic relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government of India has been maintaining close contacts with the Government of the Republic of Korea (RoK) in the matter of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

The visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, to RoK in September, 1993 and that of the RoK President Kim Young Sam, to India in February, 1996 gave a strong impetus to our economic and commercial relations.

India-RoK trade has been steadily increasing. There has been a notable growth in RoK's investments in India in recent years. Presently it is the fifth largest investor in India.

With a view to maintaining regular exchange on economic matters, an agreement to set up a Joint Commission between the two countries was signed during the RoK President's visit to India in February, 1996.

There is continuing cooperation between the two countries in areas of trade, investment, joint ventures, ship-building, science & technology, technical training and related fields.

[Translation]

Departmental Competitive Examinations

1120. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Sub-Rule-4 of the Central Secretariat Services to provide same criteria of four years service to the promoted Assistants as being provided to the direct recruited Assistants for appearing in Section Officer's Limited Departmental Competitive Examination ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government would like to amend said rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) For determining the eligibility for appearing in the examination, the 'approved service' was reckoned from the 'actual' date of appointment in the Assistants' grade. However, consequent upon an amendment to the rules issued on 21.6.95, such service is reckoned from a national date of the 1st July of the year following the year of the examination in the case of directly recruited Assistants and of the Select List year in the case of promotees. Due to this change, it has been decided in consultation with the UPSC and other concerned Ministries not to change the existing criteria regarding the length of eligibility service.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Right to Information

1121. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating empowering all the citizens to seek information on the functioning of all public authorities in the country;