

[English]

**Age for Government Service**

1065. SHRI VAIKO:  
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the recruitment age for various posts in Central Government Departments including autonomous bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any notice from the Delhi High Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest point of view of the Union Government in regard to retirement age of Central Government employees?

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) and (b) Consequent to raising of the retirement age from 58 years to 60 years, the upper age limit for recruitment to All India Services and various Central Services through the Civil Services Examination, 1999 has been increased by 2 years. Further, general orders have also been notified on 21st December, 1998 providing for increase by two years in the upper age-limit for recruitment through Direct Open Examination to all the Central Civil Services and Civil Posts under the Central Government with effect from 1st April, 1999 vide Central Civil Services and Civil Posts Upper Age-limit for Direct Recruitment Rules, 1998. The said Rules are not directly applicable to autonomous bodies and it is for the respective autonomous body to decide whether or not to increase the retirement age of their own employees.

(c) and (d) Government in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has not received any Notice from the Delhi High Court in this regard.

(e) At present, there is no proposal to change the existing retirement age of Central Government employees.

**Re-unification of Korea**

1066. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new proposal made by the Government of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Government of South Korea for reunification of Korea on the basis of "Independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity" without any foreign interference;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A high level meeting held in Pyongyang on 3 February 1999 approved a letter which was forwarded to prominent leaders of South Korea, including President Kim Dae-Jung and Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil.

The letter called for (i) declaring 1999 as a year of national independence and great unity; (ii) honest implementation of the three principles of national reunification, i.e. independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity; and (iii) dialogue between the authorities and other wide ranging dialogues between the North and South Koreans.

(c) The Government of India favours the reunification of the two Koreas in a peaceful manner through bilateral dialogue.

[Translation]

**Sale of Seeds**

1067. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether seeds are being sold by foreign companies in the country;

(b) whether these seeds are being produced in the country or abroad;

(c) whether foreign companies have taken permission from Union Government and concerned State Governments for the sale and distribution of seeds; and

(d) whether the Union Government or State Governments test the quality of seeds being sold by the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, these seeds are being produced in the country as well as abroad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Testing of seeds of imported varieties/hybrids is being facilitated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research as per the guidelines contained in the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988 as far as seeds of Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds and Foodders are concerned, whereas no testing is required for seeds of vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants as these seeds are under Open General Licence.