

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Gazette Notification No. 44-GA/71 dated 19 March, 1971 is an amendment of the IFS (B) (RCSP) Rules 1964; and not an order regarding promotion and fixing of seniority of Grade III Stenographers.

The appointments to this Grade were made vide order No. Q/PD/5602/18/71 dated 16th October 71 in pursuance of the provisions of Rules 17 (e) of the amended IFS (B) RCSP Rules, notified vide Notification No. 44-GA/71 of 19 March, 1971.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The representations are being considered in consultation with the authorities concerned.

12.00 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NOS. 541
AND 547 RE. MINI STEEL PLANT

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): With your leave Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a small clarification. In reply to a supplementary question today to questions Nos. 541 and 547, I made the statement that the export of ferrous scrap was banned. As the term 'ferrous scrap' is very generic, I would like to make the following clarification. The export of heavy melting scrap is banned, but certain varieties of scrap that cannot profitably or efficiently be used in our country in the existing electric furnace units or are in excess of indigenous off take like cast iron borings and mill scale are allowed to be exported. Whenever indigenous demand for such categories picks up, Government will certainly consider restricting or even banning their export.

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
SITUATION IN ASSAM

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd): I call the attention of the Minister of Home

Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported tour of riot-affected areas of Assam by Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of State and the latest situation there".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, With a view to making a first hand assessment of the situation in Assam, I visited Silchar, Dibrugarh, Moirabari and Gauhati on the 16th and 17th December. I exchanged views with different sections of the people and also with the Chief Minister and the concerned State officials. The State Government are aware of the need for maintaining vigilance and are earnestly engaged in speedy restoration of cordial relations among different linguistic groups. Measures have been undertaken to provide redress to the victims of the disturbances. A Commission of Inquiry has been appointed to go into two specific incidents resulting in the death of two students. The State Government have also decided to inquire into the adequacy of administrative arrangements made to deal with the disturbances including allegations regarding lapses.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am really surprised to find that the hon Minister has been so brief in informing the House about the latest situation in Assam. Although he had the pleasure to give more information to the press while he held a press conference at Gauhati on the 16th where he admitted that although the situation was improving, yet the situation in Assam had not been restored to normal conditions, even that has not been admitted here on the floor of the House today.

The situation in Assam should be viewed not in isolation. It is the eighth riot, language riot in Assam, after Indepen-