

(b) if so, whether any steps have since been initiated in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Various suggestions have been received for further amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act. These are under examination. Government will take a decision in the matter after consulting representatives of workers and others concerned.

Britain's New Immigration Rules

*63 SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has drawn the attention of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Whitelaw, on Britain's new rules for immigrants, to anomalies arising from the Home Secretary's disregard, in making changes of Indian customs and conventions in relation to arranged marriages, to the attitude towards ageing parents and to dependent children; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The British Government published a White Paper in November 1979 on proposed changes in British Immigration rules. The Acting High Commissioner of India in United Kingdom had a discussion with the British Home Secretary Mr. Whitelaw on the proposed changes and left a note with him making some suggestions to alleviate the hardships for the people of Indian origin in Britain. It is hoped that the British Government, which is understood to be considering further action on the White Paper proposals, will take into account our views.

Expansion of Diego Garcia

*64. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHRA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have decided to expand Diego Garcia Military base in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our reports, the U.S. Defence Department has announced that funds would be sought in the 1981 Budget, starting October 1980, for further development of the harbour, the aircraft parking space and runways, and fuel storage facilities in Diego Garcia.

(c) In accordance with our established policy, we continue to oppose foreign military presence, including bases in any country. Our Permanent Representative in a recent statement in the UN General Assembly expressed our 'grave concern' at the recent developments in the Asian region including the Indian Ocean. This view has also been stressed at high level meetings with foreign governments.

Deteriorating Labour Situation in the Country

*65. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for deteriorating labour situation in the country during the last 2-1/2 years and what are the reasons for the failure of the previous Government to take remedial action;