

That is how this delay has taken place. I want the hon. Member to know that there are not many people in the country who are qualified for holding such posts and, therefore, very vigorous selection process has to go on and the Government has to scrutinise if the people selected are suitable for appointment.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mauritius PM's Speech at Annual Dinner for Diplomatic Corps

*574. DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mauritian Prime Minister while addressing an annual dinner at Port Louis in December 1987 criticized Diplomats for absents themselves from the multi-religious ceremony, organised a week before, for the victims of a crash of an Airliner;

(b) whether the reference included Indian diplomats; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which Indian High Commission did not attend and the facts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) At a dinner in honour of the dipolomatic corps on December 28, 1987, the Mauritian Prime Minister expressed regret that a few envoys did not attend the ecumenical ceremony in memory of 160 persons (of whom 55 were South African) who lost their lives in the South African Boeing 747 air crash on Novemer 28, 1987 off the Mauritian coast. His remarks did not specifically refer to Indian diplomats.

(c) In consonance with our policy of boycotting the South Africa's racist regime our High Commissioner (and a few other envoys) did not attend the ceremony at which South Africa's Foreign Minister and Transport Minister were the chief guests. Our High Commissioner, however, sent a wreath before the ceremony began.

Hijacking of Indian Fishermen by Pakistani Forces from Gulf of Kutch

*575. SHRI SRI HARI RAO :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items apperaring in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 12 March, 1988 wherein it has been stated that eleven fishermen were hijacked by Pakistani Forces from Indian waters in the Gulf of Kutch on 9 March, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for their release ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government had taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan and have been informed that the two Indian fishing vessels, 'Lokeshwari' & 'Badrinath', with a total of 11 crewmen, were captured on the 10 March, 1988, allegedly for fishing in Pakistani waters. Government have also demanded consular access to the imprisoned fishermen and their immediate release.

[Translation]

Cases pending in Allahabad High Court

577. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :

SHRI SALEEM I. SHERVANI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number

of cases pending in Allahabad High Court as on 15 March, 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : As per information furnished by the Registry of the Allahabad High Court, the number of cases pending in Allahabad High Court as 1-1-1988 was 3,62,014.

[*English*]

Adoption of Indian Children by Foreigners

*581. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS** : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children born in India and adopted abroad during the last three years;

(b) the rules governing the adoption of Indian children to foreign countries;

(c) whether private agencies are functioning as adopting agencies; and

(d) whether these agencies adhere to the Indian adoption laws ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (d) During the last three years i.e. 1985, 1986 and 1987 the number of children born in India who were taken for adoption by foreign adoptive parents under the Authority of a Competent Court are 769, 882 and 814 respectively.

Detailed norms and procedures for Inter-country adoption of Indian children have been laid down by the Supreme Court of India in their judgements delivered in Writ Petition (CRL) No. 1171/1982.

Only Such Indian Social/Child Welfare agencies as have been recognised by the Government can process the applications of foreign adoptive parents in the

Competent Court. Similarly only such foreign agencies as have been enlisted by the Government of India can sponsor the applications of foreign adoptive parents.

Applications for the guardianship of Indian children are filed under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and all have to abide by the provisions of this Acts.

Steps to Boost Industrial Production

*582. **DR. B.L. SHAILESH** :

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently made a study of the industrial situation in the country in order to maximise the production potential of the existing industrial structure;

(b) if so, the programmes for restructuring and consolidation of enterprises to maximise the productivity of resources, modernisation based on futuristic technologies, building up capabilities and self-reliance in critical areas suggested by the Commission; and

(c) the follow-up action being initiated towards industrial boost ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c) the Planning Commission has recently completed the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan and the document has been laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament. The Mid-Term Appraisal, *Inter-alia*, reviews the industrial situation in the country and also indicated the broad course of action for the future, which has been set forth in chapter 5 (Paras 5.74 to 5.77) of the document. The Administrative Ministries and State Governments are being requested to take necessary follow up action in concerned areas.