

Indian Council of Cultural Relations

*477. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make the Indian Council of Cultural Relations a major instrument for spreading goodwill and friendship throughout the world through the medium of Indian culture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir. This in fact is one of the main objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) Since the transfer of ICCR to the Ministry of External Affairs in 1970, its endeavour has been to become an instrument to promote understanding of our culture and goodwill towards our partner nations throughout the world. An Evaluation Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Mehta has been appointed recently to review and evaluate the scope and functions of the ICCR in particular and our cultural relations with other countries in general.

Rate of Interest on Employees Provident Fund

*478. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest on employees provident fund contribution; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Government have enhanced the rate of interest payable under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme from 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent per annum for the year 1977-78.

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic facilities in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in Delhi

*479. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the great demand of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic system of medicine Government propose to extend the facility to each of these dispensaries of C.G.H.S. in Delhi where not available; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). At present six Ayurvedic dispensaries and 4 homoeopathic dispensaries are functioning in Delhi. It is the objective of the Government to promote indigenous systems of medicine including homoeopathy. Although at present there is no proposal to make available the facilities for Ayurvedic and homoeopathic systems to C.G.H.S. beneficiaries in all dispensaries in Delhi, the question of opening more dispensaries under these systems is under examination and additional dispensaries will be opened as and when necessary facilities for the establishment of the same become available.

भारतीय दूतावासों में भारतीय पोशाक प्रयोग

*480. श्री भीठा लाल पटेल : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशों में स्थित भारतीय दूतावास अपनी राष्ट्रीय भाषा तथा स्वदेशी पोशाक में कोई रुचि प्रकट नहीं करते;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उनकी विदेशों की हाल की यात्रा में उन्हें इसकी झलक प्राप्त हुई थी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने विदेशों में रहने वाले भारतीयों तथा भारतीय दूतावासों के भारतीय कर्मचारियों द्वारा भारतीय पोशाक एवं अन्य सामान का उपयोग किये जाने के बारे में कोई निदेश जारी किये हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई) :

(क) और (ख) : जी नहीं। यह कहाद ठीक नहीं कि विदेश स्थित भारतीय राज-दूतावास कोई रुचि प्रकट नहीं करते।

(ख) विदेश स्थित भारतीय मिशनों में भारतीय अधिकारियों को ये स्पष्ट निर्देश हैं कि औपचारिक और रस्मी मौकों पर वे निर्धारित भारतीय वेशभूषा ही पहनें। अपेक्षाकृत कम औपचारिक अवसरों पर उन्हें बंद गले का कोट और पतलून पहनने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। दूसरे मौकों पर और सामान्य पहनावे के लिए भारत की भांति ही वहां भी कोई वेशभूषा निर्धारित नहीं है; लेकिन, यह कहा जा सकता है कि लोग अपने आप ही भारतीय वेशभूषा अधिकाधिक अपना रहे हैं।

Night Airmail Service

*481. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to reintroduce night airmail service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA):
(a) and (b). The matter is under examination in consultation with the Indian Airlines Corporation.

Electronic Equipment for Telephone .. Exchange

*482. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government made any proposal for the production of large electronic equipment for telephone exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it will be a part of development and expansion of production of electronic equipment at ITI, Palghat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Industrial Relations Bill

*483. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to introduce a new Industrial Relations Bill soon;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) what is the total strength of the organised and unorganised labour force separately in the country at present; and

(d) how far the new Industrial Relations Bill will cover them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Government has decided to set up a Tripartite Committee to study, in depth, all the problems relating to a Comprehensive Industrial Relations Law. It would be for the Committee to recommend a framework of the proposed law.

(c) Out of a total working population of 180.4 million, according to 1971