

Central Government to State Governments, public undertakings and the banks resulting in the inequality of opportunities in the matter of employment ; and

(b) it so, steps proposed to be taken by Government to bring uniformity in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Upper age limit for recruitment to different services/posts under the Central Government are fixed depending on, *inter alia*, the qualifications and the type and extent of experience prescribed for the respective services/posts. The State Governments, public undertakings and banks are free to determine upper age limits for recruitment to the posts under their control keeping in view their own requirements and peculiar conditions. Accordingly, no uniformity can be expected in this matter.

(b) Does not arise,

#### Pollution of Ganga

3407. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether immersion of ashes of dead bodies in the Ganga by the Hindu according with Hindu religious rites is one of the causes of pollution of this river ; and

(b) if so, whether the Ganga Authority constituted recently had examined this question having bearing on Hindu religious sentiments and devise ways and means to restrain the people from immersing ashes of the dead bodies in the river and thereby avoid its pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) The extent and nature of pollution

due to immersion of ashes of the dead bodies has not been examined scientifically.

(b) CGA has not yet commenced functioning so the question does not arise.

#### Mineral Nodules from Seabed

3408 SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Law of the Sea Convention India enjoys the status of a pioneering nation ;

(b) whether on an experimental basis, Government were able to scope up mineral from the seabed with our ship 'Gaveshani' ;

(c) the area where this was done, the type and the quantity of minerals collected ; and

(d) whether Government have made further progress in this technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) India has been recognised as a Pioneer Investor under the Law of the Sea Convention adopted on 30th April, 1982 :

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) In January, 1981, research vessel 'Gaveshani' of the National Institute of Oceanography collected on an experimental basis more than 20 kilograms of samples of polymetallic nodules from the seabed in the Arabian Sea and over 30 kilograms from the seabed in the Central Indian Ocean. The nodules contain important metals like copper, nickel, and cobalt, apart from iron and manganese.

(d) Yes, Sir. In view of the limited size and endurance of R.V. GAVESHANI and the need to accelerate the programme on polymetallic nodules, the department of Ocean Development deployed a sophisticated oceanographic research vessel 'Sagar Kanya' and also chartered two additional vessels during the year 1982-84. These vessel with the improved technology of collecting samples of nodules from the deep seabed, have obtained nodules from an area of more than four million square kilometres and at 1334 stations. The total quantity of bulk sample nodules collected so far exceeds eleven tonnes.

[*Translation*]

#### Meeting of Hindi Advisory Committee

3409 SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry held during the year 1984 ;

(b) the details of the resolutions passed in these meetings ; and

(c) the details regarding implementation of these solutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Planning was held during the year 1984.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

**News item captioned "Flourishing Trade in A.U. Import Licences".**

3410, SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item "Flourishing trade in A.U. import licences" appearing in *Electronics Review*, Bombay dated 20 January, 1985 regard-

ing alleged misuse of A.U. import licences; and

(b) if so, action taken by Union Government to plug the loopholes in the issue of licences so that the use of licences is made by the genuine and entitled parties and by those who have technical capability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on press reports alleging grant of import licence to a large number of bogus units in Gujarat, investigations have been taken up in the matter. If the investigations reveal anything incriminating, action will be taken under the Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and/or Imports (Control) Order, 1955.

Action is also initiated whenever such misuse is brought to Government's notice by other sources. Suo moto inspections are also carried out to check up utilisation of high value licences.

During the last 2 years Government announced various policy measures in the field of electronics due to which misuse of A.U. import licences, if any, would get considerably minimised.

[*Translation*]

#### Development of Places of tourist interest in Rajasthan

3411. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Department in each State to attract foreign tourists in the country ; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by this Ministry to develop the places of tourists interest in Rajasthan like Jaipur, the most attractive desert