

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in the disposal of cases and in the matter of relief to employees financially by Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) the details of steps taken to make the working of CAT meaningful and within the reach of common Government servant ;

(c) the details of the cases pending before Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.1.1990; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) from its inception, is adjudicating, a large number of pending cases transferred from High Courts and Subordinate Courts, in addition to fresh cases instituted. The various Benches of the CAT have disposed of a total number of 51894 cases uptill 31.1.90. This has reduced the delay in the disposal of pending cases and provided relief to the Central Government Employees.

(b) The Procedure Rules being followed in the CAT are simpler than those followed in the Courts. A nominal fee of Rs. 50/- only is required to be paid by a Government servant for filing an application before the Tribunal. It is not obligatory for him to engage a practising lawyer as he himself can defend his case before the Tribunal.

(c) A total number of 31570 cases are pending before various Benches of the CAT as on 31.1.90. Out of this 26576 are original applications and 4994 are transferred applications.

(d) The Government have decided to set up additional Benches of the CAT in addition to the holding of circuit sittings at

various places, with a view to reduce pendency of cases before various Benches of the CAT.

Abolition of Examination Fee

988. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish examination fee being charged from educated unemployed persons;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are totally exempted from the payment of examination fees. Handicapped persons are also totally exempted from payment of examination fees for recruitment to Group 'C' and Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) posts. The fees presently charged from others by the Union Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Commission for various competitive examinations are nominal compared to the expenditure incurred on the conduct of the examinations. Abolition of examination fees may lead to an increase in the number of non-serious applicants causing infructuous expenditure.

[*Translation*]

Constitution of Working Group for I and B

989. SHRI RALESHWAR YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has been