

workers in a period of two years and training of equal number of dais to look after the deliveries, ante-natal and post-natal cares in the rural areas. The details of the scheme including financial implications are, under examination.

**Offer of cooperation to India by Arabian and Communist countries**

715. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arabian and Communist countries have declined to support the present Government;

(b) if so, how many countries have so far offered their support and cooperation to India;

(c) whether the oil supplying nations have stopped or reduced the supply of oil to India; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve our relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise in view of (c) above. The further strengthening of cooperation with all Arab Countries is a constant endeavour of the Government of India.

**Employment to persons becoming overaged for Government Service**

716. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment problem in the country has reached a situation where the labour unrest have started and youths have become agitated;

(b) whether persons who got themselves registered in the employment exchanges have not got the jobs and have become over-aged for Government employment;

(c) if so, the total number of such persons registered in the employment exchange in the country; and

(d) what steps are being immediately taken to help them in getting jobs?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (d). Available information relates to the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges as on 31st December, 1976 classified by age groups. A statement is attached. Since the upper age limits for entry into Government services differ from occupation to occupation and even between Centre and the State Governments etc., it would not be possible to indicate precisely the number of job-seekers registered with Employment Exchanges who have become over age for Government employment.

Employment in Government services alone cannot provide jobs to all job-seekers. Government is pledged to the removal of destitution within a time-frame of 10 years and towards this end Government will follow an employment-oriented stra-

tegy in which primacy will be given to the development of agriculture, agro-industries, small and cottage industries especially in rural areas. High priority will also be given to the provision of minimum needs in rural areas and to integrated rural development.

*Statement*

Number of job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st December, 1976 classified by age-groups.

(In thousands)

Age-group	Number on Live Register as on 31-12-1976.
1. Upto 19 years . . .	2900.2
2. 20-24 years . . .	3055.2
3. 25-34 years . . .	3225.8
4. 35-44 years . . .	509.1
5. 45-54 years . . .	80.0
6. 55 years and above . . .	14.0
<b>TOTAL . . .</b>	<b>9784.3</b>

NOTE:—1. All the job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges are not necessarily unemployed.

2. Data showing the age-wise distribution of job-seekers on the Live Register are being collected annually at the end of December each year.

**No-War Pact with Pakistan**

717. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any positive response to India's renewed offer to sign a

no-war pact with Pakistan has been received; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect the security and integrity of the country as a result of massive arms supply to Pakistan by U.S. Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). According to press reports, the Pakistan Prime Minister has said there are some pre-conditions before Pakistan agrees to sign a specific no-war pact with India.

Government have been in touch with US Government regarding proposals for the supply of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan. According to latest information, one such proposal has been called off, following President Carter's new policy of arms restraint.

Compulsorily retired officers of P&T, Andhra Circle

718. SHRIMATI AHILYA P. PAN-GNEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eight Office bearers of Postal Class III Union in Andhra Circle were compulsorily retired in 1967 for having associated with the issue of a circular containing complaints against the SPO, Kurnool;

(b) whether out of eight, three have been taken back on duty; and

(c) if so, whether remaining five will also be taken back on duty; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, but their compulsory retirement ordered in 1966 was based on their conduct having led to conviction on a criminal charge by a court for publishing a defamatory pamphlet against the