

Demand of Bonus by Central Government Employees

637. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees have demanded bonus after the scrapping of the amendment made in 1975 in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Demands of this nature have been received;

(b) Section 32(iv) of the Act excludes from its purview employees employed by an establishment engaged in any industry carried on by or under the authority of any department of the Central Government or a State Government or a local authority.

Excavation of Minerals at Pharakh, Jammu and Kashmir

638. SHRI BALDEV SINGH JASROTHIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deferred the execution of all new programmes of mineral development and excavation; and

(b) if not whether Government are going to develop and start excavation of minerals at Pharakh in Tehsil Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Government are taking appropriate steps to explore and develop mineral deposits in the area.

Appointment of non-Career Diplomats

639. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy followed by Government in the matter of appointment of non-career diplomats, including retired Government officers to senior diplomatic posts;

(b) whether the Indian Foreign Service Association has also represented against the induction of retired or retiring Government officers to the foreign service, if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) names of retired/retiring Government Officers with their qualifications who have already been appointed to senior diplomatic posts; and

(d) whether no suitable officers are available in the I.F.S. to man these posts and if so, the reasons for not posting to those diplomatic posts from I.F.S. Cadre?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Posts of Heads of Missions and Heads of Posts are filled by the Government at its discretion by appointment of members of the Foreign Service, other persons from public life or occasionally retired members of other services.

While selecting persons for senior diplomatic assignments, the Government is guided by the national interests and the consideration of suitability for the post. Government takes into account the experience, ability and eminence while considering non-career diplomats and retired Government officers for appointment to such posts.

(b) The I.F.S. Association *inter alia* has drawn the attention of the Government to the aspect of the matter; Government's reaction is that suitability and eminence has to be