

Training of Indian Doctors for Treatment of Acupuncture by China

1472. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has offered to train two Indian doctors in medical treatment using acupuncture; and

(b) whether Government have accepted the invitation and if so, the names of the doctors who have been sent for training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). WHO/UNDP and China offered a 3 months training course in acupuncture in China for one candidate from India. The offer was accepted and Dr. Promila Chari, Anaesthetist, Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh has been sent for training.

Number of Passport Applications received from M.P.

1473. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6185 on the 4th August, 1977 regarding opening of an office of Regional Passport Officer in Madhya Pradesh and state:

(a) the number of passport applications received so far from Madhya Pradesh since 1st January, 1977;

(b) the number of passports issued to the applicants out of them; and

(c) number of applications rejected/pending upto the end of October, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a)

to (c). 9,436 applications for passports were received from Madhya Pradesh for the period 1 January, 1977 to 15 November, 1977. Passports were granted on 4,967 applications. No passport application was rejected. The number of passport applications from Madhya Pradesh pending as on 1 November, 1977 was 4,727 while those pending as on 15 November, 1977 was 4,469.

Issue of Commemorative Postal Stamp

1474. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation in the month of May, June, July, 77 from "Ghaisas Guruji Vedapathashala, Pune (Maharashtra)" requesting to issue postal stamp of Vedacharya Govindbhatta Bhikambhatta Phatak Guruji to commemorate his birthday centenary celebrations; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in regard to the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Provident Fund Arrears

1475. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of provident fund arrears to be recovered from the employers as at present;

(b) whether the Conference of Provident Fund Commissioners have suggested certain changes in the Provident Fund Act to recover these arrears; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what further steps Government propose to take to ensure recovery of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA) (a) Rs 1930 11 lakhs as on 30-6-1977

(b) Yes

(c) The Provident Fund Commissioners in their conference held in August, 1977 suggested the following changes in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, for speedy recovery of the arrears —

- (1) The Act be amended on the lines of section 223 etc of the Income Tax, 1961 providing for an independent Recovery Machinery under the control and supervision of the Commissioners
- (ii) The Act should be included in the Schedule to the Economic Offences (Inapplicability of Limitation) Act, 1974, so that the prosecutions under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act do not come within the limitation provisions of the Criminal Law or in the alternative, the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act itself could be suitably amended
- (iii) The Commissioners have further recommended the setting up of Special Courts at all important Centres to try the offences under the EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases. These are proposed to be discussed by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Pro-

vident Fund at its meeting scheduled to be held on the 5th December, 1977

Exploration of Bauxite Deposits in the Country

1476 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to undertake any comprehensive scheme for the exploration of bauxite deposits in the country and if so, the details thereof,

(b) whether Government propose to include the commercial exploitation of the known reserves of bauxite in the Trivandrum and Cannanore districts of Kerala also in this scheme. and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA)

(a) Exploration for bauxite in the country is being carried out under various programmes depending upon the priorities assigned from time to time. The Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation have carried out a comprehensive programme for exploration of bauxite on the east coast in the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh which has resulted in the estimation of about 1600 million tonnes of bauxite resources in the area. Further investigations are still continuing. Besides, during 1977-78 GSI proposes to carry out investigations for bauxite in different parts of Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The deposits are not considered suitable for commercial exploitation at present.