

**News Item, captioned Industrial Climate Murky**

3406 SHRI K LAKKAPPA  
SHRI M RAM GOPAL  
REDDY

Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an interview given by Shri G D Birla on 9th July, 1978 to the *Financial Express* that foreign investment prospects are bleak, as published in the *Indian Express* of 10th July, 1978, and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI) (a) Yes Sir

(b) Government do not share the views expressed by Shri G D Birla

**Criteria for inviting Press Correspondents at Press Conferences addressed by Ministers**

3407 SHRI L L KAPOOR  
SHRI R K MHALGI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Information Officers attached to each Minister have been inviting Press Correspondents to Press Conferences addressed by Ministers, Government officials and foreign visitors,

(b) whether they discriminate in selecting correspondents, and

(c) if not, why the invitations for such press conferences are being sent to only a few correspondents and neglect a large number of correspondents who regularly visit the Press Information Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L K ADVANI) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir For Press Conferences addressed by Ministers, all accredited

to the Government of India are invited without any discrimination

(c) Does not arise

**Ex-gratia payment for Air Force Personnel]**

3408 SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to increase the *ex-gratia* payment from Rs 42,000/- to Rs one lakh for the Air Force personnel since November, 1977, and

(b) if so, the number of Air Force personnel who have received the enhanced *ex-gratia* payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF SHER SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir The enhanced amount is admissible to the families of Armed Forces personnel and civilians paid from Defence Services Estimates who die as a result of accident to the aircraft while travelling by Service Aircraft as passengers or members of aircrew in the course of the performance of their official duties

(b) The families of five deceased Air Force Officers have so far received an *ex-gratia* award of Rs 1 lakh each

**Overhauling of Ministry of Industry**

3409 SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) what steps he has taken to overhaul the Industry Ministry

(b) what effects this overhauling is expected to bring towards more efficient working of the department; and

(c) whether overhauling has resulted into surplus of manpower or requirement of more manpower in the industries Department?