

female health worker is to be provided for every 5000 population. Additional health workers are being trained to provide the required number of female health workers according to this norm.

### Meeting of Labour Ministers

5464. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has decided to call a meeting of the Labour Ministers in July, 1980;

(b) if so, when the meeting is likely to be called and the subjects to be discussed;

(c) if already held, what were the subjects discussed and decisions arrived at; and

(d) what were the State Labour Minister's views in regard to lock-outs and strikes that are increasing everyday?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (d). The 31st session of the State Labour Ministers Conference, which met on the 19th and 20th July, 1980, took a number of important decisions covering the entire range of industrial relations, labour administration and workers' welfare. It was the consensus in the Conference that industrial harmony, welfare and production and productivity are closely inter-woven and would have to be promoted together.

The Conference agreed that the industrial relations machinery should be strengthened and streamlined to

anticipate labour problems and to take prompt preventive action to avert work-stoppages and that the laws on industrial relations and trade unions should be suitably modified.

The Conference recognised that there is urgent need to strengthen the implementation machinery to carry through the more basic programmes of ensuring minimum wages, freeing and rehabilitating of bonded labour, eliminating unfair labour practices in the contract system and in the employment of casual labour. It desired that appropriate provision be made in the Sixth Plan for such strengthening and for the specific programmes.

It was decided that a Central law should be enacted to regulate the conditions of work and wages of construction workers.

The Conference decided to set up a Standing Committee consisting of all the Ministers to effectively follow up the decisions.

The main recommendations of the Conference have been laid on the Table of the House in response to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Ramavatar Shastri on the 23rd July 1980.

### Number of Section Officers superseded in Ministry of External Affairs

5465. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Private Secretaries attached to Senior Officers in his Ministry get promoted as Under Secretaries as soon as they come into the Zone of consideration even while down at the bottom of the list for consideration, because of the rule of two years service as Section Officers required to be put in by them is waived in their favour;

(b) the number of Private Secretaries who were considered and who were promoted in each panel during the last 4 panels;

(c) the number of Section Officers who have already worked in superior positions as Third Secretaries in Missions abroad and attaches at Headquarters who have been superseded in the last 4 panels; and

(d) what steps the Minister propose to take to rectify the prevailing system for selection to the post of Under Secretaries?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) Under the rules, all officers of the rank of Section Officers and Private Secretaries, eligible for consideration for promotion to the grade of Under Secretary have to be interpolated in a combined seniority list according to their length of service. The promotion from this combined list to the grade of Under Secretary cannot be effected except with the advice and consent of the Union Public Service Commission, one of whose members chairs the Departmental Promotion Committee which makes these selections.

The Departmental Promotion Committee recommends officers for promotion to the grade of Under Secretaries on the basis of a comparative assessment of their service records. Their recommendation is based on the objective assessment. In case of the Private Secretaries, Departmental Promotion Committee, based on the objective assessment, considered them fit for the grade of Under Secretaries and the rule of service as Section Officer for two years was relaxed, having regard to the exigencies of the circumstances since such a power is available to the authority under the rules.

(b) The number of Private Secretaries who were considered and promoted to the post of Under Secretary

during the last four panels is given below:—

Year of Panel	No of Private Secretaries considered	No of Private Secretaries promoted
1975	42	11
1976	25	9
1978	25	6
1979	17	6

(c) The number of Section officers who have worked as Third Secretary in Missions abroad and Attaches at Headquarters, and have been superseded in the last four panels is as under:—

Year of Panel	No of officers worked as Third Secretaries/Attaches and superseded
1975	4
1976	7
1978	12
1979	3

(d) The relaxation is made within the ambit of the rules in the exigencies of the circumstances; the question of rectification of the system of selection the post of Under Secretaries does not arise.

**Countries where Indian Citizens do not require Visa**

5466. **SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the countries within as well as outside of Commonwealth where Indian citizens do not require visa for entry as tourist or immigrants;