

(b) Government has no knowledge as to whether letters have been exchanged between Maulana Bhasani and President Bhutto.

(c) Does not arise.

U. S. Supply of Jet Planes to Saudi Arabia

3358. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBALAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether jet planes have been supplied by U. S. A. to Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) An official of the United States Department of Defence recently testified that Saudi Arabia was buying F-5 jet fighters to replace older aircraft and that the U.S. had agreed, in principle, to sell a limited number of F-4 Phantom jet aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

(b) It is for Saudi Arabia to decide on the aircraft and armaments that she wishes to buy for their defence requirements.

Interview for Purchase Officer/Assistant Purchase Officer in Bharat Coking Coal Limited Dhanbad

3359. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an interview for the post of Purchase Officer/Assistant Purchase Officer in Bharat Coking Coal

Limited, Dhanbad, a Government of India, Undertaking on the 20th June, 1973;

(b) whether there was reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates and if so, how many candidates were called for interview and their number category-wise; and

(c) whether the candidates, belonging to reserved communities, called for interview, were paid travelling allowance and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Candidates for the post of Senior Purchase Officer and Purchase Officer were interviewed on 24th April, 1973. A written examination for Assistant Purchase Officer was held on 20th June, 1973. Date for interview will be fixed after completion of all formalities.

(b) There was reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates. Position regarding candidates is as under:

(i) Senior Purchase Officer:

Altogether 84 candidates, including 5 from Scheduled caste and one from Scheduled tribe had applied. Only 27 candidates including one of Scheduled Caste and one of Scheduled tribe fulfilled required qualifications and were called for interview.

(ii) Purchase Officer:

125 applications including one from Scheduled Caste were received. Only 27 candidates fulfilled required qualifications were called for interview.—The only Scheduled Caste candidate who applied did not fulfil the required qualification.

(c) A subsidised travelling allowance is paid to all candidates called for interview for executive posts.