

**Posting of Accounts Officer as incharge  
in Employees Provident Fund  
Organisation**

**530 SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI**  
Will the Minister of LABOUR be  
pleased to state

(a) whether there are instructions that in regional offices under the Employees Provident Fund Organisation where Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners have been posted, Accounts Officer should not be made Incharge of Administration,

(b) whether in contravention of this instruction a deputationist Accounts Officer in Bihar region has been made Incharge of administration when Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (Gr I) has been posted there, and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-  
GOVIND VERMA)** The Provident  
Fund Authorities have reported as  
under —

(a) In the Regional Offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation Accounts Officers are not required to be burdened with the administrative work

(b) and (c) In Bihar region, on account of certain administrative exigencies, the Regional Commissioner had entrusted the work of administration to the Accounts Officer from October, 1974 This arrangement has however, since been discontinued

**Shipping Protocol with Soviet Union**

**531 SHRI RAMAVATAR  
SHASTRI**

**SHRI G Y KRISHNAN**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING  
AND TRANSPORT be pleased to  
state

(a) whether a Shipping Protocol  
has been signed with the Soviet Union  
to increase the sea cargo between the  
two countries, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND  
TRANSPORT (SHRI H M TRIVEDI).**

(a) and (b) The Indo-Soviet Shipping service is normally reviewed at Government level once in three years For the review due in 1974, a Shipping Delegation from the Government of USSR visited India in January, 1975 At the end of the talks a Protocol was signed The main features of the Protocol are as follows —

(i) It was noted that during 1974 the cargo turn-over was 950 000 tonnes representing an increase of 30 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1973

(ii) It was estimated that the cargo turn-over during 1975 would be 10 70 000 tonnes and it was decided that the level of sailings should be adjusted accordingly

(iii) Suitable sailings to cater to the movement of 370,000 tonnes of fertilisers during 1975 including the backlog of 35,000 tonnes pertaining to 1974 would be arranged

(iv) It was also agreed that Indo-Soviet Shipping service should keep pace with the technological improvements in the transportation of cargoes and take necessary measures to introduce such improvements in a phased manner.

**Visit of Soviet Shipping Delegation**

**532 SHRI VEKARIA.**

**SHRI D P JADEJA**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING  
AND TRANSPORT be pleased to  
state

(a) whether a ten member Soviet Shipping delegation has visited India to review the working of the Indo-Soviet Shipping services recently, and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) and b). The Indo-Soviet Shipping service is normally reviewed at Government level once in three years. For the review due in 1974 a Shipping Delegation from the Government of USSR visited India in January, 1975. At the end of the talks a Protocol was signed. The main features of the Protocol are as follows:—

- (i) It was noted that during 1974 the cargo turn-over was 950,000 tonnes, representing an increase of 30 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1973.
- (ii) It was estimated that the cargo turn-over during 1975 would be 10,70,000 tonnes and it was decided that the level of sailings should be adjusted accordingly.
- (iii) Suitable sailings to cater to the movement of 370,000 tonnes of fertilisers during 1975 including the backlog of 35,000 tonnes pertaining to 1974 would be arranged.
- (iv) It was also agreed that Indo-Soviet Shipping service should keep pace with the technological improvements in the transportation of cargoes and take necessary measures to introduce such improvements in a phased manner.

**Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad**

533. SHRI VEKARIA:  
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to reorganise the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) whether Government propose to appoint any Senior Officer who knows Gujarati language?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) to (c). The Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad has been reorganised. The office procedures have been streamlined and additional staff provided, to ensure speedy issue of passports. The office is now functioning normally and generally passports are being issued without delay. The Assistant Passport Officer, who was in charge of the Office has been replaced by a Gujarati knowing officer with effect from 25th November, 1974. In addition the appointment of an officer on deputation from the Gujarat Government as public Relations Officer is under consideration.

**Increased Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act**

534. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had decided that the rates of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act should be increased;
- (b) whether any legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced in Parliament; and
- (c) if so, whether in the ensuing session this will be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOBIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Proposals for amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 including revision of rates of compensation, are yet to be finalised.

**Implementation of Chakravarty Report on Wage Policy**

535. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:  
SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have not taken any final decision in regard to the implementation of re-