

(a) whether an interview of successful candidates for appointment to the post of junior Overmen was held in November, 1997 in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring the result of aforesaid interview so far;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of junior Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(d) if so, the number of sanctioned posts of junior Overmen in the company and the number of employees working against these posts;

(e) the number of Junior Overmen retired in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for making appointments of Junior Overmen and also for safety of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) An interview for appointment to the post of Overman at Eastern Coalfields Limited was held in November, 1997.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the result could not be declared as the matter is subjudice before the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) Eastern Coalfields Limited has surplus of Overmen. Against the sanctioned strength of 1410, there are 1500 Overmen on the rolls of Eastern Coalfields Limited. There is no separate designated post of Junior Overman.

(e) Total number of Overman retired in last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of Overman Retired
1995-96	26 Heads
1996-97	34 Heads
1997-98	44 Heads

(f) Since there is already a surplus of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited, question of fresh appointment of Overmen does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Amendment in the Patent Act

3252. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:  
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:  
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to finalise draft bill for amending 1970 Patent Act was scheduled to be held in Delhi on 16th November, 1998 was adjourned without making any headway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to consider amendment to the Patent Act, 1970 was held on 11th November, 1998.

[English]

#### IRS Officers on Deputation

3253. CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers on deputation to various institutions in the country who have completed their tenure and are not being called for;

(b) the number of such officers who are on deputation even after having completed the maximum tenure permissible under the rules;

(c) whether the Government propose to call them back to join their original place of posting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) 26 (Twenty six). The tenure of the officers deputed to various organisations is governed by the rules regulating the appointment to the posts concerned. Extension in the deputation tenure of such officers is considered and granted by the borrowing

organisations and the CBDT as the lending cadre controlling authority in respect of the Indian Revenue Service only conveys its 'no objection' for extension of tenure of such officers keeping in view the requirements of the Department. Unless the competent authority decides otherwise, under the existing instructions, the officers concerned will revert back to the cadre on the completion of their extended tenure. CBDT permits deputation beyond the normal tenure only in exceptional circumstances.

#### **Cases pending before Debts Recovery Tribunal**

3254. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by various Banks and financial institutions pending before the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh by the end of September, 1998;

(b) whether there is any proposal to constitute a separate Debts Recovery Tribunal for Andhra Pradesh to expedite the cases of Karnataka at the DRT, Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Bangalore has reported that up to 30.9.1998, 4971 cases have been filed in this Tribunal by various banks and financial institutions. Out of these, 1656 cases have been disposed off by DRT Bangalore. All these cases relate to the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The proposals for establishing DRTs at more places are examined by the Government from time to time after due consideration to operational requirement etc.

#### **Credit to Farmers**

3255. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for grant of exemption from compliance of section 11 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for District Central Co-operative Banks to enable farmers to obtain credit; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of

Andhra Pradesh had requested for exemption from compliance of Section 11(1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies) in respect of seven District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in Andhra Pradesh. On the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Government of India have granted exemption to all seven DCCBs.

#### **Ban by EU for Import of Fish**

3256. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:  
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union proposes to ban import of fish from India because poor labour practice in fish processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on export earning of the country; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government to fight back export curbs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The European Union (EU) have not informed Government of India about their intention to impose any ban on the import of fish from India on account of the alleged poor labour practices in fish processing.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **List Released by Germany**

3257. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has recently released a list of the countries receiving special assistance;

(b) if so, whether India has not been included in the said list whereas the name of India was at the top of the list of the countries receiving economic assistance;

(c) whether the Government have discussed this issue with the Government of Germany; and