

AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir. Narayanganj was not among the sites proposed by the State Government for investigation/evaluation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Reaction of Burma with India

5127. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the reaction of Burma over the imposition of US sanctions;

(b) whether the India's relation with Burma is likely to be affected; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allowances to Employees of Hilly Areas

5128. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide hill allowances to the employees of nationalised banks working in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to increase, the hill allowance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has informed that the Nationalised banks provide hill & fuel allowances to employees which include hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh as per details given below :

Place	Award employees	Officers
1	2	3
1. Places situated at a height of 3000 meters and above	18% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs 450/- p.m.	15% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 600/ p.m.
2. Places situated at a height over 1500 meters but below 3000 meters.	8% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/- p.m.	6½ of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 160/ pm.

1	2	3
3. Places situated at a height of over 1000 meters but less than 1500 meters.	6% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 110/- p.m.	5% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 130/- pm

Apart from the above, employees posted at places with an altitude of not less than 750 meters and which are surrounded by hills with higher altitudes which cannot be reached without crossing an altitude of 1000 meters or more are paid hill & fuel allowances at the same rate as is payable for the centres with an altitude of 1000 meters and above but less than 1500 meters.

(c) and (d) The payment of hill & fuel allowances to the employees of nationalised banks both for award staff and officers are governed by the terms of settlement and Officers' Service Regulations respectively.

[English]

Issuance of Passport and Visa

5129. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many Embassies and High Commissions now refuse to honour passports with additional sheets and stamp visas on them; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with those foreign countries/instructed the passport issuing authorities to provide fresh passports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) It has been brought to Government's notice that some Embassies and High Commissions have amended their Visa regulations to issue visas only on the passport booklets and not on additional visa sheets.

(b) All the Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad have been advised to discontinue attaching additional visa sheets in passports when all the pages are exhausted and to issue fresh passport booklets without any additional verification.

Exemption Under P.F. Act

5130. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of firms in Karnataka who have been granted exemption under the P.F. Act;

(b) whether these establishments have invested funds in the Central and State Government securities as per the Government of India Notification;

(c) if so, the number of them have invested and the number of them have failed to invest in Central and State Government securities;

(d) whether there is any proposal to cancel exemption or withdraw the relaxation of those establishments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In Karnataka, there are 88 establishments exempted from the EPF Scheme, 1952 and 28 establishments which have been given relaxation under para 79 of the Scheme.

(b) and (c) 98 establishments have invested funds as per the pattern of investment prescribed by the Government of India and the remaining 18 establishments have not invested as per the prescribed pattern. Out of these 18 establishments, 16 establishments have failed to invest in Central and State Govt. Securities.

(d) and (e) The establishments which have failed to make investment in accordance with the prescribed pattern have been advised to follow the prescribed pattern and in the event of their still not complying with the advice, necessary action under the law would be initiated.

[Translation]

Release of Children in Pakietan

5131. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has released 38 Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention has been invited to a news-item captioned "Starved tortured, the boys recall dark nights in Pak Jails" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' on the 27th March, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) In March, 1997, Pakistan agreed to release 38 Indian children who were under detention in Pakistan since 1994. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessels which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities. Government made many representations on their behalf and expressed satisfaction when Pakistan agreed to release the children. The children reached Mumabi on 23rd March, 1997 and were thereafter sent to their homes.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government are concerned at the account of the difficult conditions faced by the children while they were kept in Pakistani jails and remand homes.

Pending Cases of MTNL in Labour Courts

5132. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cases belonging to Communication Ministry or MTNL in the Labour Court of Delhi; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to dispose of these pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Details of pending cases before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court New Delhi and their present status are indicated in the Statement enclosed. The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court New Delhi had informed that the parties are pressed to complete the evidence and arguments quickly so that the disputes can be disposed of as early as possible.

Statement

List of Cases		Present position of Disposal
1		2
1. Jai Kumar	Vs. Department of Telecommunication	Workman Evidence
2. Dalip Ram	Vs. -do-	Proceedings stayed.
3. Rajinder Prasad	Vs. -do-	Proceedings stayed.
4. Smt. Sahsi Kanta	Vs. -do-	Workan Affidavit.
5. Jeet Bahadur	Vs. -do-	Miscellaneous Arguments
6. Baleshwar Kamti	Vs. -do-	Written Arguments
7. Anil Kumar	Vs. -do-	Written Arguments
8. Ramu	Vs. -do-	Arguments
9. Jasram Singh	Vs. -do-	Arguments
10. Palbit Singh	Vs. -do-	Arguments
11. Krishan Lal	Vs. -do-	Arguments
12. Girdhari Lal	Vs. -do-	Arguments
13. Munshi Prasad & Others	Vs. -do-	Documents
14. Netrapal Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
15. Kishan Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
16. Beere Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
17. Gen. Secretary	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
18. Dhani Ram	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
19. Jitender Kumar	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
20. Than Singh	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
21. Bholi Ram & Ors.	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
22. Janki Prasad	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
23. Keshav Dev & Ors.	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
24. Yaduvir Singh	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved