

no information. Therefore, I have invited the attention of the hon. Minister to the specific question of mineral deposits.

MR. SPEAKER: For that also, he says that he has no information.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Let him say so.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said it already.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: I have not followed what the hon. Minister has given in his reply on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vajpayee, you have said that you have no information on this.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Apart from the assertion made by the Pakistan Authority, we have no information on this particular point. We are trying to collect information. But the difficulties are obvious.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QUERESHI: Even the Minister for External Affairs has exhibited his ignorance about the geography of the area. Now that he has improved his relations with Pakistan and he is going to improve his relations with China, will he suggest to them—Pakistan and China—that instead of flying from Delhi to China, he will go via Karakoram Highway to China?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH: The question is very important even from the commercial point of view. I am surprised to know that there is no information available. I would like to know whether he is collecting information from the Intelligence Department of this country or any other country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I will collect information from all available sources provided it is available.

Streamlining working of Employment Exchanges

*271. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the efforts made to streamline the working of Employment Exchanges; and

(b) the time frame by which the Exchanges are expected to function as useful instruments for placement of the registered unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). The Committee set up under the chairmanship of Shri P. C. Mathew for streamlining the working of Employment Exchanges has submitted its report a few days back. The report is under study.

SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government is aware of the fact that thousands of applicants who apply for jobs are put to innumerable difficulties. Have any interim steps been taken to remove difficulties?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: This Committee was appointed because there were a number of complaints about the difficulties experienced by people who go to register themselves with employment exchanges. But the hon. Member is aware that the day-to-day administration of the employment exchanges is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, this Committee was asked to look into all the aspects of administration, the difficulties experienced both by staff and those who go to register themselves with employment exchanges; and the Committee has submitted a report which is now under consideration. The views of the State Governments will also be taken into account before finalising the Government's attitude on the recommendations.

SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: There are reports of calls being sent to certain favoured candidates who are registered with the employment exchanges in Delhi. Is the Government aware of this fact and what steps will be taken in this regard?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: As far as the employment exchanges are concerned, they can only forward names from the live register. If there has been any irregularity where the employment exchanges have forwarded names which are not in the live register, the hon. Member may kindly bring it to our notice and we will take such action as is appropriate and necessary.

श्री किरंगी प्रसाद : मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि यह प्रदेश सरकारों का काम है कि वे इसकी व्यवस्था करें तो क्या मंत्री जी यह भी स्पष्ट करेंगे कि केन्द्र की तरफ से भी इस विषय में कुछ निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि इस तरह से काम किया जाये ? यदि हाँ, तो कब और किस रूप में दिए गए हैं ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The Working Group of the National Employment Service includes representatives of State Governments. The Centre's responsibility in this regard is to lay down national policy, standards and procedure. These are formulated in consultation with the representatives of the States and whenever necessary, the Centre issues such directions or advice as is necessary to the States. In fact, one of the recommendations of the Mathew Committee is that the Centre should take a greater share of the responsibility for financing and running employment exchanges in an effective manner. This, therefore, is one of the recommendations that is under consideration.

श्री राम बिलाल पासवान : मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा कि जिन लोगों के नाम रोजगार बप्तर में दर्ज होते हैं क्या उनको सरकार इस बात की गारंटी

दे सकती है वा बेनी कि उनकी उम्र की सीमा खत्म होने से पहले उनको रोजगार मिल जायेगा ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: At the moment, the function of the employment exchanges is not one of guaranteeing employment but of ensuring that those who seek employment are registered with employment exchanges; and whenever vacancies are notified, the live register is drawn upon to ensure placement from the live register. The second part of his question is a suggestion which the Government is already considering.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: This is a very important point which the hon. Minister has to consider. When candidates register themselves for particular jobs with the employment exchanges, they are within the age for getting jobs in Government service. By the time, they get calls, a number of them will be over-age. Will the hon. Minister consider the age point for the appointment of those candidates the age when they register with the employment exchanges, not the age at the time of interview? This is a very important point. Thousands and thousands of candidates have been thrown out of employment because of over-age.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: This is a suggestion for action.

Villages without Post Offices

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* 272. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:**

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages are at present without post offices;

(b) how many letter boxes have been provided in the villages after the present Government came in power; and