

Submission of Annual Property return by Senior Officers

1721. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that submission of annual property returns by the senior Government officers is not being strictly enforced; and

(b) the number of the Central Government officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above including those in the Income Tax Department, Customs and Enforcement Department, who have not filed their annual property returns during the last five years, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials including those who have retired during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) All Group 'A' and 'B' officers are required to file their Annual Property Returns under their respective Conduct Rules to their Cadre Controlling Authorities. Violations by erring and retired officials, if any, are taken care of by these authorities. The information is not centrally maintained.

Shortage of IAS/IPS officers in Chhattisgarh

1722. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of officers of the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Services in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the State Government has demanded IAS and IPS officers from the Centre as per its requirement; and

(c) Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), against the authorized strength of 100, 80 officers are in position. In order to fill the gap, 9 IAS officers have been allowed inter-cadre deputation to Chhattisgarh. In the Indian Police Service (IPS) 57 officers are in position against the authorized strength of 59.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The demand for additional requirements can be met through a review of the authorized cadre strength of these Services. For the IAS, no cadre review proposal has been received. However, the State Government has indicated that they would be requiring 10 direct recruits each year till the year 2008, in replacement of those direct recruits who retire plus some increase in cadre strength. In respect of IPS, proposals for the review of the authorised cadre strength were received but as the State of Chhattisgarh has been carved out of Madhya Pradesh, the views of the Government of Madhya Pradesh have been sought.

Modification of charge against Anderson by CBI

1723. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has filed an application on May 4th, 2002 asking the offence for which accused and absconding Warren Anderson of Union Carbide is charged, be modified from 'culpable homicide' to 'rash and negligent act';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since 1992 Anderson has been evading a non-bailable warrant and is a fugitive from justice and has not asked for the modification CBI is now pleading; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the modification CBI has asked, if acceded to, would not make Anderson's act an non-extraditable offence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed an application for a fresh warrant under Section 304A IPC in the trial court on 24.5.2002.

(c) The non-bailable warrant issued against Mr. Anderson by the trial court had been pending for execution. However, a fresh warrant of arrest has been sought under Section 304A. Mr. Anderson has not asked for modification in the charge framed against him by the trial court.

(d) Offence under Section 304A IPC is an extraditable offence under the provisions of Indo-US Extradition Treaty.