

[23 December, 1999]

RAIYA SABHA

Productivity Linked Bonous to the Employees of Passport Offices

2358. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any demand for implementation of productivity linked bonous to the employees of Passport Offices as in the case of Posts and Telegraph and Railway employees;

(b) whether the Fifth Central Pay. Commission had recommended for such a system of bonous to the employees of the Passport Office; and

(c) if so, what is the present status of this demand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In the recent past there has been no such demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of American Protest against Loans

†2359. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA is likely to withdraw its protest against the loans bring given to India by international financial institutions for the projects associated with the human necessities;

(b) whether Government have received some official information in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) After the nuclear tests in May 1998, the US imposed certain economic restrictions on India under its domestic law. These restrictions included opposition to any loan to India by any

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

international financial institution Loans for humanitarian purposes by international financial institutions were exempted from the restrictions. On June 25, 1998, the World Bank had approved a loan of US \$ 543 million for projects in India designed to meet basic human needs. Loans from international financial institutions for meeting basic human needs continue to be available to India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Vietnamese President's Visit to India

2360. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vietnamese president Tran Duc Luong recently visited India and held talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussion and outcome of talks; and

(c) the details of the broad fields in which both countries have agreed to work for closer cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The President of Vietnam held talks without President, Vice-President and Prime Minister. Minister of Human Resource Development & Science & Technology, Finance Minister and External Affairs Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other political leaders called on him. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and while expressing satisfaction at the expanding cooperation in various fields, agreed to strive to enhance it further. The Vietnamese reaffirmed their support to India's candidature as a permanent member in an expanded Security Council. South-South cooperation was reiterated as a major plank of our foreign policy, a Credit Agreement, a Process Verbal for Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed in 1997, an MOU on Setting Up of Software Human Resource Development