

procedure of the members of ITAT at present;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to create additional benches of ITAT in near future and what are the criteria adopted by Government to make the selection procedure to less time consuming for filling up these vacancies; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) There are at present 11 vacancies of Members in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal i.e. 5 vacancies of Judicial Members and 6 vacancies of Accountant Members. Steps have already been taken for filling up 2 vacancies of Judicial Members and 2 vacancies of Account Members. The selection procedure has already been initiated for filling up the remaining vacancies. Selections for these posts are made by a high powered Selection Board headed by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) A proposal for the creation of 15 additional Benches of the I.T.A.T. has been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for their concurrence. The selection procedure for appointment of members in the ITAT has already been revised so as to make it less time consuming.

Modern facilities at Tourist Places in the Country Visited by Foreign Tourists

3626. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the modern facilities are available at the tourist places where maximum number of foreign tourists visit;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints lodged by tourists and nature thereof;

(d) the action taken by the authorities on these complaints; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to encourage inflow of more foreign tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The development of modern infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process and is being achieved. Some financial assistance is provided to State Government and private investment is also encouraged in this regard. However, the resources available for the development of such facilities are limited.

(c) and (d) During last year, 117 complaints were received by the Department of Tourism. These complaints, mostly from overseas tourists, include inadequate road and air services, cheating by shop-keepers and inconveniences suffered by tourists. These complaints have been acknowledged and enquiries are made either directly or through the concerned Departments. A small cell has also been set up in the Department of Tourism to deal with such complaints.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to encourage inflow of foreign tourists include improvement of infrastructural facilities, development of tourist attractions and strengthening of publicity and promotional efforts.

Pending cases for legal opinion

3627. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending with the Ministry during the last three years year-wise received from various Ministries/Departments for legal opinion against RIL group of industries;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in giving legal advice to the various Ministries/Departments;

(c) whether in some cases Solicitor General of India has advised his Ministry for taking precautions in respect of R.I.L. group of industries;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking action on the advice of Solicitor General; and

(e) action proposed to be initiated on each case; if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No case is pending with this Ministry for legal opinion against RIL group of Industries during the last three years.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) does not arise.

Examiners of customs and preventive officers recruited through Staff Selection Commission

3628. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cadre-wise and Collectorate-

wise strength of Examiners of Customs and Preventive Officers recruited through the Staff Selection Commission during the last three years;

(b) whether the above posts are transferable all over the country;

(c) if so, the number of officials transferred and the number of transfer applications pending during the last three years collectorate-wise;

(d) whether Govt. propose to make these post transferable;

(e) whether Govt. propose to promote all the officials of Examiners of customs of 1992 to the Appraiser Grade all over the country simultaneously; and

(f) if not, the reasons, therefor.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The strength of Examiners of Customs and Preventive Officers recruited through the Staff Selection Commission during the last three years in the Customs Houses is as follows:—

		Examiners	Prev. Officers
Cochin		13	49
Calcutta		27	86
Bombay		39	54
&	Comm.	—	22
Goa	Cadre		
Madras	Comm.	16	64
Visakhapatnam	Cadre	—	37

(b) to (d) The posts of Examiners of Customs and Preventive Officers are not transferable all over the country except within common-cadre Commissionerates. However, requests from individual cases for transfer outside the common-cadre

Commissionerates are considered and allowed on compassionate grounds, subject to the condition that they forego their seniority in the parent Custom House. The details of the officials transferred during the last three years and the re-