

(c) if *so*, what steps have been taken to reduce the number of pending cases and with what results; and

(d) whether some advice is being given to States to set up similar Tribunals for service disputes of State Government employees; if so, in what form and if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are 14 Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal presently functioning from different parts of the Country. 5 Benches were initially set up on 1.11.85, 3 more benches were set upon 3.3.86 and 6 more benches on 30.6.86.

(b) The number of cases pending before various Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 30.6.88 is 23,639. It may not be possible to infer that the speed of disposal has slowed down because number of cases freshly instituted and transferred from other Courts has also been varying ever since the Central Administrative Tribunal was set up.

(c) In order to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Government have already decided to appoint more Vice-Chairman and Members. It has also been decided to open additional benches at Lucknow and Jaipur.

(d) Section 4(2) of the Administrative tribunals Act, 1985, provides for setting up of Administrative Tribunal for the States on receipt of specific request from the respective State Government. States Administrative Tribunals have already been set up in Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh as per above provisions.

Refusal by Pak to return Indian National

1183. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI RAM AWADHESH -
SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 6th July, 1988 regarding refusal of the Pak Government to return the two boys, who accidentally strayed into Pakistan while picking berries in Kanackak border area, even though they have completed the term of their imprisonment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have made a request to the Government of Pakistan for the early repatriation of two boys.

Indians killed in Northern Somals

1184. SHRI BIR BHADRA
PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian nationals have been killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the Somali National Movement agitation recently;

(b) if so, what are the total number of Indians killed there during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Indian Embassy to protect the lives of Indians there?