

to such posts till they are empanelled. Such officers could however be continued in their own Cadres.

Cases of suicides by Defence Scientists

1357. SHRI SURESH KALMADI; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scientist has recently committed suicide in the Institute of Armament Technology, Pune;

(b) what weapon was used by the employee of ARDE, Pune and from where did he get that weapon; and

(c) what are the details of suicide committed by the employees of the Defence Research and Development organisation during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) A student in the Electronics Fellowship course of the Institute of Armament Technology, Pune committed suicide in February, 1986.

(b) As this death was in Institute of Armament Technology, Pune, ARDE was not involved at all.

(c) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Moderation of mark, obtained in competitive Exams held by UPSO

1358. SHRI ACHCHHEY LAL BALMIK; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that marks obtained by candidates in examination conducted by UPSC are subject to moderation after they have been evaluated by the respective authorised examiners;

(b) whether there are any guidelines/instructions that are observed in the process of moderation, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the results of the Civil Services Main Examinations conducted in the year 1984 and 1985 have been questioned through writs filed in the Delhi High Court and some other High Courts;

(d) whether Government propose to instruct UPSC to furnish to the examinees the details of marks obtained by them in a paper alongwith the marks assigned after moderation; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and what other measures are contemplated to restore candidates faith in the impartiality of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Moderation, which is being practised by the Union Public Service Commission, is necessary to ensure uniformity of standards *inter-se* Examiners, wherever more than one Examiner is involved in the evaluation of a particular paper/subject. Further, in a Competitive Situation, where a common merit list is to be prepared and the candidates have the option of selection of subjects from a variety of heterogeneous subjects, it also becomes necessary to ensure a reasonable degree of uniformity *inter-se* subjects as well. According to available records with the UPSC since 1949, the Commission has been following a well established procedure of Statistical moderation wherever it is considered necessary after duly considering the report of the Head Examiner.

The procedure of moderation was challenged recently in the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad in the case of Shri K. H. Goradia vs. the Union of India and others by a candidate for the Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1984. The Petition was

dismissed by the Hon'ble Single Judge and the moderation procedure was upheld by the Court". The petitioner went in appeal to the Division Bench of the same High Court and the same was also dismissed. Another candidate, along with seven others, has challenged the principles of moderation in connection with the same examination in the Hon'ble High Court at New Delhi and the same is pending before the Court. No candidate has challenged the results of the Civil Services (Main) Examination held in 1985. Two writ petitions were, however, filed in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, Delhi challenging the right of the Commission to hold re-examination for certain candidates in General Studies Paper-II consequent on the loss of some scripts in postal transit. Both the writ petitions were dismissed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. Government do not think it necessary or proper that marks assigned before moderation are communicated to the candidates. The system of moderation followed by UPSC has stood the test of time and has also been upheld by the High Court of Gujarat. There is, therefore, no reason to doubt either its technical soundness or the impartiality of the Union Public Service Commission.

Iraqi warning to foreigners to leave Iran

1359. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has warned all foreigners in Iran to leave Iran immediately to escape unprecedented air strikes likely to take place deep inside Iran;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Commander of Iraqi Air Force in this regard;

(c) what is the number of Indian nationals in Iran at present; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure safety of their life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Commander of the Iraqi Air Force is reported to have said in an interview published on April 22 that the Iraqi forces will direct destructive attacks against vital economic and military targets of Iran. He then warned all foreigners working in Iranian establishments to leave the country.

(c) There are an estimated 500 Indian nationals in Iran.

(d) The war between Iraq and Iran has been going on for the last six years. In the past, there have been similar warnings of intensified action by one side against the other. Our Embassy in Iran is in continuous contact with the Indian community.

Soviet withdrawal of moratorium on nuclear tests

1360. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: "will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that in view of continued nuclear tests by US, the Soviet Government has withdrawn the unilateral moratorium imposed by it on nuclear tests; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in the context of renewed nuclear race among the big powers and Government's efforts towards disarmament, stating the role contemplated by Government to reduce world tension?

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

(b) Government of India are concerned at the escalating nuclear arms race and are pursuing their efforts to