

of the Government of Ecuador with protagonists of Khalistan or any separatists or ethnic movements.

Setting up of Vidarbha Development Board

*76. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal have been received from the Maharashtra Government in respect of setting up of the Vidharbha Development Board under Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, when were the proposals received; and

(c) by when Government propose to set up the Board for Vidarbha in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Maharashtra legislature on the 26th July, 1984?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently a proposal has been received on 2nd November, 1985.

(c) The proposal is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law. At this stage, it is not possible to indicate any time limit for establishment of these Development Boards.

Reforms in Recruitment system to Government services

*77. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any reforms in recruitment system to Government services in the higher cadres; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) and (b) The existing scheme of Civil Services Examination consisting of a preliminary examination and the main examination for recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, the Indian Police Service and various non-technical Central Services and posts was Group 'A' and Group 'B' introduced in 1979. This was based on the recommendations of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. S. Kothari set up by the Union Public Service Commission and as accepted by the Government. This Committee had recommended periodical review of the standard of recruitment. Also the Estimates Committee of the 7th Lok Sabha in their 77th Report recommended that as by then five examinations had been held under the revised pattern, the new system of Civil Services Examination could be reviewed. Government is examining various proposals to introduce changes in the methods of recruitment to the All India and Group 'A' Services. Since no final decisions have been taken, it would not be possible to give any details.

Vacant posts of Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners

*78. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of Indian Embassies and High Commissions where the posts of Ambassadors and High Commissioners are lying vacant and since when; and

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up ?