

Promotional avenues for Assistants in DPA

778. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of promotion of direct recruit assistants to the post of Section Officer in the Deptt. of Parliamentary Affairs visa-vis the other Ministries/Departments of Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that direct recruit Assistants of even 1964 Examination have not so far been given regular promotion whereas in most of the Ministries/Departments the direct recruit Assistants upto 1976 examination batch have been promoted to the posts of Section Officers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ameliorate their lot?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Two direct recruit Assistants of 1964 Examination have been promoted as Section Officers on regular basis and one is officiating as Section Officer on ad-hoc basis in the Department. The position regarding promotion of direct recruit Assistants in other Ministries/Departments is not known as this Department do not participate in the Central Sectt. Service Scheme.

(c) The Department of Parliamentary Affairs (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1963 provide for cent per cent promotion of Assistants to the grade of Section Officers, and as such the Assistants are promoted as and when vacancies arise. In addition, Assistants are also eligible for appointment as Research Assistants and Accountant.

Visits of Prime Minister to Foreign Countries

779. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state';

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign countries have been visited by Prime Minister during the period from 1st January, 1983 to loth April 1984;

(b) if so, the names of countries and the purpose of tours;

(c) -what has been the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of agreements and protocols signed in each country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During this period, the Prime Minister visited Yugoslavia, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Austria; Cyprus, Greece, Franco, USA UK, USSR, Libya and Tunisia. The visit to the United Nations headquarters in New York was in pursuance of the call given in the Final Declaration of the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit urging world leaders to use the opportunity offered by the 38th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly to undertake a collective appraisal of some of the major problems of the world. Accordingly, informal summit level consultation were held on September 27 and 29, 1983 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's initiative was widely appreciated. The visits to UK and France were in the nature of transit on way to and from New York.

The Prime Minister visited USSR to attend the funeral of President Yuri Andropov. She took the opportunity to hold discussions on matters of mutual interest with the new General Secretary of the CPSU, Mr. K. X/. Chernenko.

The visits to other European countries were in response to long-standing invitations from these countries which provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues of international importance as well as to strengthen our bilateral relations. During the visit to Yugoslavia in June 1983, the Prime Minister delivered the Raoul Probisch lecture at the UNCTAD VI. During the visit to Austria in June 1983, the Prime Minister delivered the keynote address to the First Cotajgress of the Indo-West Europe Dialogue.

The visits to Libya and Tunisia were undertaken in response to longstanding invitations and were the first such visits by an Indian Prime Minister to these two countries. Apart from a review of bilateral relations, the opportunity was utilised to discuss West Asia situation.

(d) Following agreements/protocols were signed during the Prime Minister's visit abroad:—

Finland: (1) Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation.

(9) Cultural Agreement.

Norway: (i) Agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme for years 1984-86

(2) Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation in the field of Environment.

Greece: (0) Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical-Cooperation.

Shifting of State Institute of Rural Development, Bhubaneswar from its present campus

780. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa is shifting the State Institute of Rural Development Bhubaneswar from its present campus and giving the land to Rajdhani College, a Government College, in contravention of agreement with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The information is being called for from the State Government of Orissa, and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Agricultural Production in the North-Eastern States

781. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no breakthrough in agricultural production in the North-Eastern States during the recent year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a special programme has been launched to increase the agricultural production; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. In the North-Eastern States, the production of crops has