

these persons in some other Government offices; if so, with what results; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?]

[THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी) : (क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) इनको मुख्य सेंसर संगठन जो मुख्य प्रेस सलाहकार के कार्यालय के रूप में जारी रहा, में सर्वथा तदर्थ आधार पर नियुक्त किया गया था । तथापि, इस संगठन को अप्रैल, 1977 में बन्द कर दिया गया था और तदनुसार इन व्यक्तियों की सेवाएं समाप्त कर दी गई थी, क्योंकि इनकी जरूरत नहीं थी ।

(ग) इन व्यक्तियों को पत्र सूचना कार्यालय में चपरासियों के रूप में पुनः नियुक्त करने के प्रयत्न किए गए थे, किन्तु यह पाया गया कि वे इस प्रकार की नियुक्ति के लिए निर्धारित मापदंड पूरा नहीं करते थे ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They were appointed purely on ad hoc basis in the Chief Censor Organisation, which continued later as Office of the Chief Press Adviser. However, this organisation was wound up in April 1977 and services of these persons were accordingly terminated as no longer required.

(c) Efforts were made to redeploy these persons as Peons in the Press Information Bureau, but it was found that they did not fulfil the criteria laid down for such deployment.

(d) Does not arise.]

† [] English translation.

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Seniority of assistant engineers in PWD, Pondicherry

727. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what criteria have been laid down for fixing the seniority of Assistant Engineers in the P.W.D. at Pondicherry;

(b) whether it is a fact that an incumbent who was not actually on the cadre of Assistant Engineer has been placed above two officers who were actually working as Assistant Engineers; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for fixing the seniority in this case in contravention of the existing rules and regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Forwarding of applications by competent authorities of various Government Departments to UPSC for competitive examinations

728. SHRI AMARPOSA CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the competent authority in the departments of various Ministries of the Government of India are empowered not to forward the applications of Government servants in response to advertisements by the U.P.S.C. for posts filled by holding competitive examinations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to give instructions to the competent authorities to liberalise the forwarding of applications to the U.P.S.C. submitted by Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (c) Under the extent instructions which were recently liberalised competent authority in a Ministry/Department may forward all the applications submitted by a government servant in response to advertisements by the U.P.S.C. for posts filled either by holding competitive examinations or otherwise. Normally, the applications are not withheld but it is open to the competent authority concerned to withhold forwarding of such applications where it is considered to be justified in the public interest.

Release of advertisements at reduced rates to Small Newspapers

729. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the small newspapers to the effect that Government advertisements be given to them on reduced rates rather than at the rates prescribed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity on the basis of their circulation, number of pages and the size of papers,

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI JAGBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SoJhar power station in Bihar

730. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: SHRI HARISHANKER BHABHADA;

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish an experimental solar power station at Duar in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) At the request of Oil India Ltd., Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is examining the possibility of setting up an experimental solar power station at the Dumar Oil Pumping Station in Bihar. The proposal is at the feasibility study stage.

Withdrawal of pension to freedom Fighters

731. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters State-wise, whose pension has been stopped because of their annual income from other sources reaching Rs. 5,000 limit;

(b) whether Government are contemplating any changes in the income limit in view of the rise in Income tax exemption limit and also in the cost of living index since the income limit was fixed; and

(c) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) The information is given in the attached statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The scheme provides for financial assistance to the freedom fighters and their families in indigent circumstances who have not got sufficient financial resources of their own for their maintenance. The annual income ceiling of Rs. 4,999/- was fixed for the purpose after taking into account all the relevant factors.