

(b) The executive branch of the US Government recommended on January 26, 1978 to the NRC, which is an autonomous licensing body, that the licence be issued for the shipment. On February 21, 1978, the executive branch has argued against the necessity of holding public hearings and has urged that the issue of the licence should be not delayed. It is understood that the NRC may take a decision on whether or not to hold hearings during this week. The Indian Government have been constantly impressing upon the US Government the necessity of maintaining continued supplies of enriched uranium so that the working of the Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad and the Tarapur nuclear power plant is not impaired.

Jorbagh Telephone Exchange

*520. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN; SHRI IBRAHIM
KALANIYA; SHRI JAGDISH
JOSHI; SHRI PIARE LALL
KUREEL URF PIARE
LALL TALIB;
SHRI GUNANAND
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that faults in the telephone connections on 61-Level from the Jorbagh Exchange installed in the Safdarjung Development Area remain unattended for several days despite Complaints to the local fault control; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKH-DEO SAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Safdarjung Development Area which was earlier served by Jorbagh Exchange is now under Hauz Khas exchange since 25-2-78. During the

transfer of connections from Jor Bagh Exchange to Hauz Khas Exchange, few telephone connections were dislocated for a very short period but prompt action was taken by the maintenance staff when complaints were received.

Talk with Littoral Countries for a Nuclear free zone in South Asia

*521. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently discussed with the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean the situation in South Asia Particularly for a nuclear free zone in the area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Appointment of the Regional Manager, IISCO., Delhi

*522. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND; SHRI JAGAN
NATH
BHARDWAJ; SHRI
KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons who have reached or are about to reach the age of superannuation, are eligible for appointment to top executive positions in the Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) whether it is a fact that the post of Regional Manager, IISCO, Delhi, is proposed to be filled by a superannuated Central Government Officer;

(c) whether Government are aware that the proposal has caused strong resentment among the executives of the company whose chances of promotion have thus been hampered; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI I. J. PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House; use.

Statement

(a) Service rules regulating the terms and conditions of services in IISCO are being finalised in consultation with SAIL. Under the old rules prevalent in IISCO, there is no bar to employment of executives in the Company of persons who have retired, or are about to retire, on superannuation from another service. Each case has to be considered on merits and a decision taken by the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) The post of Regional Manager, IISCO, New Delhi, which is not a top executive post, fell vacant suddenly on 17.12.77. It had to be filled on an ad hoc basis by putting the then Regional Iron and Steel Controller, New Delhi, who was an officer of the Central Secretariat Service, in charge of the work in addition to his own duties. On the basis of his past experience as well as actual performance on the job, the Company decided to appoint him to the post of Regional Manager on a tenure up to 23-4-1980, i.e., till the age of 60 years. The officer was permitted by Government to retire voluntarily with effect from the 27th October, 1977, i.e., nearly six months before the date of his superannuation in Government service.

(c) and (d) No case of resentment has come to the notice of Government.

Government appraisal of employment potential in Gulf countries

*523. SHRI DINESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the employment potential in the Gulf countries and in other developing countries in West Asia and worked out any plan for facilitating the employment of Indians in these countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) While there has been no specific assessment a very rough estimate may be that the requirements of the region would be of the order of about 2.5 million of which about 1.5 million are already actively employed. Steps have been taken to regulate and facilitate recruitment of Indian workers for employment in foreign countries. According to a policy decision taken by the Government in June 1976, no firm, organisation or individual shall engage in the recruitment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers from India for employment abroad unless registered and duly licensed for the purpose by the Ministry of Labour. Foreign firms and foreign organisations are not eligible for registration but they may engage an Indian company or organisation registered with the Ministry of Labour to act on their behalf. Indian firms or organisations engaged in consultancy or execution of works on contract or subcontract basis are however allowed to recruit directly, without going through recruiting agencies, their own requirements of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers for service abroad on the terms and conditions of employment to be approved by the Ministry of Labour.