

(c) No application for passport facilities was rejected during the above period.

(d) does not arise.

Statement

Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad

Month	Applications for Passports	Passports granted
1976		
March	8,459	6,005
April	8,100	5,080
May	5,100	5,028
June	5,007	5,021
July	5,006	5,226
August	5,172	5,010
September	5,800	4,698
October	4,704	4,045
November	6,604	5,052
December	8,361	5,565
1977		
January	8,448	5,555
February	7,748	5,310
March	7,909	5,803
April	7,734	5,811
May	6,012	6,060
June	6,779	6,666
July	6,418	7,178
August	7,249	7,184
September	5,576	6,082
October	5,025	6,809
November	4,893	6,009
TOTAL	1,36,104	1,19,197

Abolition of contract labour system in Bidi Industry

1210. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish contract labour system in the bidi industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere and the "Appropriate Govt." under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act in the case of bidi industry are the State Governments concerned.

Payment of Bonus to Bidi Workers

1211. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States/Union territories where bidi workers have been paid bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent during 1977; and

(b) whether there are any States/Union territories, where such bonus has not been paid to the bidi workers if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) The information is not available and will be collected. Payment of bonus in terms of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is a statutory obligation. The State Governments are the 'Appropriate Government' under the Act in respect of bidi factories/establishments.

Representation from the All India Plantation Workers Federation

1212. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the All India Plantation Workers Federation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the representation; and

(c) whether any assurance was given by Government to the representatives of the organisation in the matter?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) The All India Plantation Workers Federation has submitted a Memorandum to the Government on 12-11-1977 making the following demands:

(1) Common Minimum Wage of Rs. 350 per month all over India;

(2) Strict enforcement of the 'Plantations Labour Act' with stringent punishment for the defaulters and passing of the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1973;

(3) Implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act and removal of the loopholes existing in the present Act as suggested by the All India Plantation Workers Federation;

(4) Revival of the Industrial Committee on Plantations;

(5) Make Plantations Labour Act applicable to smaller units irrespective of the number of workers which are being fragmented in order to avoid application of Plantations Labour Act. The Plantations Labour Act also should include the Coconut, Cardamom, Cocoa and Cloves plantations etc.;

(6) Refund of Compulsory Deposit Scheme money in cash;

(7) Recognition of a Union of Workers' choice;

(8) Nationalisation of big plantations and trade and taking over of sick and closed gardens by the Government.

(c) The memorandum is under examination.

Appointment of Retired Government officers to Diplomatic Assignments

1213. SHRI SYED AHMAD HANSHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Foreign Service Association has represented to Government against the induction of retired or retiring Government officials into the foreign service for diplomatic assignments;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what are the names of the retired/retiring Government officials together with their qualifications who have been recently appointed to senior diplomatic posts; and

(d) what are the reasons for not posting personnel from the Indian Foreign Services Cadre to these senior diplomatic posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) The Indian Foreign Service Association has drawn the attention of the Government to this matter.

(b) Suitability and eminence of persons have to be taken into consideration at the time of appointing persons to senior diplomatic assignments abroad. Retired officials in this service are treated like other non-career appointments.

(c) A list is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The question of sending appropriate persons from within the I.F.S. or others to represent the country has to be decided not only in the context of availability of suitable officers from within the I.F.S. but also keeping in mind other factors.