

(b) No general criteria have been laid down. Terms and conditions for engaging such personnel depend upon local conditions and requirements of the job.

(c) In view of what has been stated in (a) above, the question of increasing advisory and consultancy posts does not arise.

The functioning of personnel engaged for specific work on advisory and consultancy basis is constantly assessed and evaluated by Government.

Vacancies in Indian mission abroad

1372. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vacancies at present in the Indian missions abroad, country-wise and post-wise;

(b) since when each such vacancy has been lying unfilled; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in filling the vacancies including those of Ambassadors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) to (c) 27 vacancies are presently available in our Missions abroad. A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 73].

Introduction of collect call system for trunk calls

1373. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for introducing the collect call system for trunk calls;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be finalised; and

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(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons for not accepting the proposal of "collect call" system which is in operation in most of the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) to (c) Collect call facility is already available for International trunk telephone service. Possibility of introducing this facility in Inland trunk service has been considered, but because of the possible administrative difficulties, this proposal has been dropped for the time being.

Strike by the doctors of the E.S.I.S. at Bombay

1374. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 2,000 medical practitioners on the panel of the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Bombay have withheld prompt medical attention to more than 4.5 million industrial workers and their families; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to mitigate the sufferings of these workers and also to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation have reported that many of the Insurance Medical Practitioners under the ESI Scheme in Bombay have been keeping their clinics closed on Thursday mornings since 22nd June, 1978, to express their resentment against non-fulfilment of some of their demands.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra, who are responsible for administration of medical care to the benefi-

ciaries under the E.S.I. Scheme in Bombay have intimated the E.S.I. Corporation that they have made adequate arrangements for providing medical treatment to the ESI beneficiaries during the morning session on Thursdays through their service dispensaries, specialist centres, E.S.I. Hospitals and other Hospitals.

I. L. O. Conference

1375. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government participated in the International Labour Conference which was held recently;

(b) if so* what was the composition of the Indian delegation to the conference; and

(c) what were the main issues discussed thereat?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As provided under the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, the delegation was of a tripartite character and included two delegates and six advisers in the Government Group and one delegate and four advisers each in the employers' and workers' groups respectively. Besides, Shri Ravindra Varma, the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Labour attended as Visiting Minister and was the leader of the delegation during his stay in Geneva. Thereafter, the delegation was headed by Shri Jagannath Sinha, Labour Minister, Government of Assam, who was a Government delegate.

(c) The items on the Agenda of the Conference were as follows:—

(i) Reports of the Governing Body and the Director-General,

(ii) Programme and budget proposals and other financial questions;

(iii) Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations;

(iv) Labour administration: role, functions and organisation (second discussion);

(v) Freedom of association and procedures for determining conditions of employment in the public service (second discussion);

(vi) Revision of the Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised), 1932 (No. 32) (first discussion);

(vii) Hours of work and rest periods in road transport (first discussion);

(viii) Structure of the ILO: Report of the Working Party on Structure.

Two other important issues discussed by the Conference were the admission of Namibia to the membership of the International Labour Organisation and the policy of apartheid of the Republic of South Africa. The latter item was discussed at a special sitting of the Conference held on the 16th and 17th June, 1978.

Taking over of the Kathiar Jute Mills

1376. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated the feasibility of taking over the 'management of the Kathiar Jute Mills which has since been closed;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestion from the workers for the take over of the Mill; and

(c) whether it is fact that a team from the Central Labour Commissioner's office visited Kathiar to