

(c) Government have no objection to Chinese ships resuming their practice of calling at Indian ports.

**Reduction in the Age of Retirement of Central Government Employees**

\*260. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the age of superannuation of the Central Government employees or to give them option to retire from a date earlier than the date of superannuation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) There is no proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the age of superannuation of Central Government employees. However, a decision has been taken to give Government servants the option to retire from service voluntarily after putting in 20 years' of qualifying service.

(b) The details of the scheme of voluntary retirement are being worked out.

**Small shoe-making units at Agra facing closure due to levy of excise duties**

\*261. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:  
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN:  
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN  
SINGH:  
SHRI YOGENDRA  
MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the small shoe making units at Agra are faced with the threat of closure due to the recent levy of excise duties; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to give relief to these small units so that they are not thrown out of the business causing large scale unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes. The small shoe-making units were faced with the threat of closure on account of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue & Banking, Notification dated 9-5-1977 as a result of which footwears manufactured by small units on behalf of big manufacturers affixing big manufacturer's brand names were deemed to have been manufactured by such big manufacturers. The small units thereby attracted the excise duty.

(b) Instructions have recently been issued to ensure that the duty on such footwears is paid by big manufacturers and not by the small units.

**कोयला उद्योग में लगे कर्मकारों की मजदूरी में संशोधन का न किया जाना**

\*262. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :  
क्या ऊर्जा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न कोयला कम्पनियों के मुख्यालयों में काम करने वाले कर्मकारों के वेतनमानों में कोई संशोधन नहीं किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड मजदूरी बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को लागू करने में इन कर्मकारों के साथ भेदभाव बरतने की नीति का पालन कर रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?