

(c) if so, what are the reasons there-for; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) The assurance, if any, is essentially a matter between the management and the workers.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applied to the establishment and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner after due process determined the dues realisable from the establishment. The management have filed a writ petition against this assessment in the Patna High Court and the High Court has granted a stay in the matter pending the disposal of the management's writ petition. The writ petition is being contested.

Talks with Lesotho Minister

911. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA PATRO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lesotho Minister, Mr. Molapo, met him and the Prime Minister during his recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of talks held with him ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Foreign Minister of Lesotho, Mr. C. D. Molapo, visited India from 4th August to 10th August, 1976. He called on the Prime Minister and had formal talks with the Minister of External Affairs on matters of international importance and bilateral relations. A copy of the Joint Communiqué issued after the talks is placed in the Parliament Library.

Construction of P and T building at Aurangabad

912. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the P&T Building at Aurangabad; and

(b) by when the work will be completed and the District Telegraph Office shifted to that building ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) Progress so far made in the construction of the telephone exchange building is 85%.

(b) The work is likely to be completed by November, 1976. The building will be used to accommodate the Local Telephone exchange, Trunk exchange and the Transmission equipments. There is no proposal to shift the Telegraph office to this building.

Soviet proposal for Asian Collective Security

913. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Soviet proposal for Asian Collective Security is under Government's consideration; if so, what are the broad outlines thereof; and

(b) whether the proposal was discussed with the Soviet leaders during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the Soviet Union ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) The Soviet concept of collective security in Asia was first mentioned in 1969, but no concrete proposal is before the Government so far.

(b) The Joint Declaration issued on conclusion of Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union, *inter alia*, stated that— "India and the Soviet Union reaffirm that they attach particular significance to a broad development of mutually beneficial co-operation and the strengthening of peace and stability in Asia through common efforts by all the states of this largest and most populated area of the world."

Meeting of the Indo-US delegations in New Delhi

914. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting was held between the U.S. and Indian delegations in New Delhi in the last week of May, 1976; and

(b) if so, what issues were discussed at the meeting and what was the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) This Ministry is not aware of any meet-