

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under :

(a) Total number of applications received in form 19 for final withdrawal of provident fund with Regional Commissioner, Punjab during the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 (up to 30-3-1972) is as follows :

1970	1971	1972
17,765	20,933	5,363

(b) The total number of applications against which provident fund was refunded to the applicants during the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 (up to 30-3-72) is as follows :

1970	1971	1972
13,880	16,313	4,181

(c) The number of applications pending for the three years is as follows :

1970	1971	1972
Nil	Nil	332

(d) These claims were received recently. Out of 332 claims pending as on 30-3-1972, 280 claims have, since been settled. The remaining 46 claims are pending for want of returns from the employers.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

*150. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question XTo. 148 given in Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1972 and state whether Government have taken a final decision in the matter of setting up of an Industrial Relations Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Sir,

WORKERS PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT

19G. SHRI SAXAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the numbers and names of public sector undertakings where workers have been participating in the management ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Government have decided to introduce a scheme for the appointment of workers' representatives on the Boards of Management of a few public sector undertakings on a trial basis. It is intended to implement the scheme in the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, in the first instance. It is understood that the recognised union in that undertaking has to submit a panel of names to the management in that connection.

REPORTS TO P. R. G. OF VIETNAM

197. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI (ILLAM NABI UXTOO :
SHRI D. P. SINGH : SHRI
KRISHAN KANT : SHRI
SITARAM KESRI : SHRI
CHANDRASHEKHAR : SHRI G.
GOPINATHAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal to recognise Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam ; and

(b) if so, what is the decision taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MALACCA STRAITS

198. SHRI GULAM XABI UNTOO :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR :
SHRI D. V. SINGH :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(b) whether Government have formulated

their views on the controversy regarding the Malacca straits ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect our interests in view of the strategic importance of the Malacca straits ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have the general subject of straits under their examination. This examination will cover all aspects of the question including their strategic importance and freedom of navigation. Government will also be participating in the Law of the Sea Conference to be held in 1973 which will, *Inter alia*, discuss the item of international straits with a view to settling general principles.

RECOGNITION- TO ISRAEL

199. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :
SHRI O. P. TVAGI :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are reconsidering their stand on extending full diplomatic recognition to Israel ; and

(b) if so, when such a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Government of India extended *de jure* recognition to Israel in September 1952. No other proposal is under Government's consideration in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

PRIVATE AIRCRAFT OWNED BY CERTAIN EMBASSIES

200. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain embassies in India are having their own private aircraft for use in the country ;

(b) if so, the name of these embassies ; and

(c) the conditions for the use of aircraft by them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government have decided not to permit foreign embassies to station aircraft in India any longer, and have conveyed this decision to the two Embassies concerned, those of France and the U. S. A. No other Mission maintains aircraft in India.

RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

200. DR. R. K. CHAKKARARTI :
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : SARDAR AMI
ADALI : SHRI K. B.
CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Shri D. P. Dhar, Chairman, Indians Foreign Policy Planning Committee in an interview to Cairo Daily "Al Gomhuria" urged for better relation between Egypt and India ;

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of Government of Egypt to that call ; and

(c) whether any other steps have since been taken to improve the relations between the two countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Our relations with Egypt are close and friendly. Both Governments keep in continuous touch with each other on international issues of common concern and seek to promote their bilateral relations in political, economic and cultural fields. These exchanges are developing satisfactorily in the economic, cultural and political fields. Our trade turnover for the past year exceeded Rs. 80 crores. Agreements exist and are being implemented for cooperation in science and technology, culture, atomic energy and technical training. The Government of India have found a ready response from the Government of Egypt in further developing and intensifying these mutually beneficial exchanges.