

[9 December, 2004]

RAJYASABHA

in respect of coal and lignite, atomic minerals and 10 other minerals, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before grant of mineral concession under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Mining operations in a State whether Tamil Nadu or any other State depend on the availability of the mineral and economic viability of their exploration and exploitation, whenever any major changes are made in the said Act or Rules, generally all stakeholders including State Governments are consulted in the matter.

Appointment of Welfare Officer for NRIs

774. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

SHRI MAM. RAMASWAMY:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint Welfare Officers in countries with high density of NRIs and people of Indian Origin to help Indian families to find antecedents of prospective grooms;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of girls have been lured into marriage by boys claiming to be well-settled abroad and after marriage disappeared or abandoned their wives;

(c) if so, the details of such cases available with Government, State-wise;

(d) whether Government have any plan to provide help to such Indian girls who have no where to go in a foreign land; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Though it is generally believed that there are large number of such cases, only a few case have been brought to the specific notice of the Government.

(d) and (e) There already exists a system of redressal for such problems in Indian Mission abroad. Whenever they receive a complaint of torture and desertion of Indian wives by the NRI husbands, they render assistance

to the victim by way of trying to reason with the spouse with a view to bring about an amicable settlement. In the case of unresponding spouses, they give a patient hearing and sympathetic counselling to the victims, provide consular assistance and extend humanitarian aid, if necessary, with the assistance of the local Indian community. Ways and means of supplementing this with legal advice, verification of the antecedents of the grooms, compulsory registration of the marriages, etc. are under consideration of Government.

Recommendation for Pre-mature Retirement

775. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) the number of All-India Service Officer service-wise and State Cadre-wise in respect of whom the respective State Governments had recommended pre-mature retirement; and

(b) the number of cases in which Government disagreed with such recommendations during the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) So far as Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is concerned, during the last three years, three IAS Officers were recommended for premature retirement by the State Government of Orissa. The recommendation is under examination of the Central Government.

So far as Indian Police Service (IPS) is concerned, during last three years, four IPS Officers were recommended for pre-mature retirement, one each from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Orissa Cadres. Government of India have not disagreed with any proposal for pre-mature retirement.

So far as Indian Forest Service (IFS) is concerned, during that period, no recommendation for pre-mature retirement from any Cadre in respect of any IFS Officer has been received.