

be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has made an appeal to the public to hand over Gandhiji's documents for the Gandhi Museum;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that no good response has been given by those who are in possession of these documents; and

(c) the number of persons who have refused to hand over these documents to Government?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, the Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, in her capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Committee for Gandhi Centenary made an appeal in mid-February, 1969.

(b) It is too early to assess the response.

(c) This Ministry has no information.

RETIRED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN EMPLOYMENT OF BIRLA GROUP COMPANIES

1702. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of the retired officers of the Government of India who have taken up employment with the Birla Group of Companies, within five years of their retirement and the posts held by each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): The question does not specify the period for which the information is required. However, the position is that retired Class I Officers can, within two years after their retirement, take up commercial employment with the permission of the Government. No such permission is necessary—

(a) In the case of officers who retire from Class II, III & IV

Services|posts and those who retire from non-pensionable posts;

or

(b) if the commercial employment is taken up after two years from the date of retirement. Retired officers could, therefore, have joined the Birla Group of Companies with or without permission of Government, as the case may be. Even those who might have taken up employment with the said Group of Companies might have left their service. In view of the position explained above, it is regretted that this information is not available with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STAGNATION OF ASSISTANTS

1703. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Assistants in the Central Secretariat are stagnating in the same grade and are drawing maximum in their scale;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite repeated representations by the Assistants and its Association during the last five years no action has been taken by Government to remove this stagnation;

(c) the steps taken by Government to redress their genuine grievance; and

(d) what is the number of vacancies of Section Officers against which Senior Assistants who have put in over 20 years service in the same grade will be promoted during 1969?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) to (d) Out of nearly 5000 Assistants, 355 were drawing maximum of their pay in 1968 and another 382