

\*1968. The object of their visit was to acquaint themselves firsthand with various problems of NEFA, such as those relating to development, education and communications, and to have discussions with local officials in NEFA Administration so that they may be in a better position to advise the Government of India on matters relating to NEFA that come up from time to time. In the circumstances the question of furnishing details of any report submitted by the Cabinet Secretary and Home Secretary does not arise.

#### GRADE II STENOGRAPHERS

484. SHRI T. SIDDALINGAYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bulk selection of Grade II Stenographers under the Central Secretariat Stenographers service to Grade I is being done on centralised basis?

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for such selections;

(c) the total number of vacancies at present in Grade I of the CSSS; and

(d) whether it is a fact that more weightage is being given to seniority instead of merit; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) These matters are yet to be finalised.

#### PROMOTIONS ON BASIS OF MERIT

485. SHRI T. SIDDALINGAYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has been emphasising that the future promotions of departmental candidates should be on the basis of merit and that less weightage should be given to seniority; and

(b) if so, the action, if any, taken by Government in this direction?

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

(a) and (b) Promotions to selection posts are made on the basis of merit

within a certain field of choice which, whenever possible, should extend to five or six times the number of vacancies expected within a year. If, however, there is an officer of outstanding merit, he may be included in the list of eligibles even if he is outside the normal field of choice. It has also been decided to apply more rigorously the merit criterion in respect of higher level posts under the Government of India. Promotions to other posts which are not selection posts are made on the basis of seniority subject to rejection of the unfit. In certain posts, promotions are made on the basis of competitive examination limited to departmental candidates in the lower grade fulfilling certain criteria of eligibility. There is also a scheme of merit promotion and advance increments for certain scientific and technical staff. Since the existing system already placed the required emphasis on merit, there is no proposal at present to modify it.

#### EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS IN BIHAR

486. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan has been prepared for the development and expansion of airports in Bihar;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) to (c) Plans for development of aerodromes are not formulated Statewise but on the basis of air-transport requirements. While there is no proposal to construct any new aerodrome in Bihar, development of terminal buildings and passenger facilities at Patna & Ranchi are contemplated during the IV Plan period.

#### HISTORY OF INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

487. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee was set up by Government to write the history of Indian Freedom Movement;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Committee;

(c) when the Committee was set up;