

employing Indian scientists from abroad and *inter alia* expressed the view that only those scientists, whose work could be utilised to meet more immediate needs, should be asked to return home.

(b) The views of the Director-General, Scientific and Industrial Research are receiving consideration.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN OIL COMPANIES AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

*667. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: SHRI P. ABRAHAM: SHRIMATI USHA BARTHA-KUR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Companies have agreed to negotiate a settlement of disputes regarding voluntary retirement and automation schemes; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been made in the matter with their employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI): (a) and (b) The parties agreed more than once, to have bilateral negotiations to settle the dispute but have not been able to arrive at an agreement. With a view to bring about a settlement, the Government have decided to appoint a Commission under the Commission of Enquiries Act, 1952.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR PATRICE LUMAMBA UNIVERSITY

*668. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 208 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th May, 1967 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to select students with Higher Second-

ary Educational qualifications for the Patrice Lumamba University, Moscow;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for insisting on higher standards other than what is prescribed by that University for Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is the general policy of the Government to award scholarships for studies leading to conferments abroad to those who have obtained their first degree or equivalent qualifications in India.

WELFARE FUND FOR WORKERS IN LIMESTONE ETC. MINES

*669. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to constitute Welfare Fund for workers in Limestone, Dolomite and Manganese mines, which was decided about two years ago has been implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI): (a) There are two proposals—one for constituting a Welfare Fund for workers in Limestone and Dolomite mines and the other for workers in the Manganese mines. Both the proposals are still under consideration.

(b) The first proposal is at an advanced stage. As for the second proposal, the bulk of manganese ore produced in the country is exported and any cess on the ore at this stage would make the export position difficult. The whole thing is being examined in consultation with the Ministries concerned.