

Check of Contracts.—A test check of agreements received is carried out to ensure:—

- (1) that tenders received are reasonable and that no exorbitant rates are allowed,
- (2) that vague specifications do not exist which can be interpreted to benefit the contractor, and
- (3) that no errors and omissions exist in drafting the specifications and conditions of the contract.

Surprise Inspections.—Apart from test check of works, bills, contracts and muster rolls on the basis of the above returns, surprise inspection of works and examination of documents are carried out either at random or on the basis of complaints received, both directly and anonymously, and also at the instance of A.Gs.

Remedial Action.—In all the above cases, defects in works and other irregularities are brought to the notice of the Department for remedial action by means of an Observation Memorandum and the cases are pursued till the defects are rectified, irregularities set right, and overpayments involved recovered. Serious cases of irregularities and malpractices involving deliberate overpayments are brought to the notice of the Ministry for initiating disciplinary action by the Vigilance Division against the defaulting officers and contractors.

All cases of recovery of overpayments are intimated to the A.Gs. for watching actual recovery.

Special Enquiries.—Apart from technical examination of the C.P.W.D. works, the C.T.E. Organisation also undertakes Special Enquiries on behalf of other Ministries of the Central Government, and cases of other Central Government agencies referred to it by the Special Police Establishment.

SCHEDULED CASTE OFFICERS IN C. & I. MINISTRY

*379. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Class I, Class II and Class III officers serving in the Ministry;
- (b) the number of Scheduled Caste Officers serving in Class I, Class II and Class III posts;
- (c) whether the percentage fixed for recruitment of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been completed; and
- (d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) 122 Class I Officers, 387 Class II officers and 678 Class III Officers are serving in the Ministry.

(b) 2 Class I officers, 9 Class II officers and 26 Class III officers belong to Scheduled Castes.

(c) and (d) Recruitment to most of the posts is being made by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Recruitment to some posts is being made by the Ministry of External Affairs. As regards the remaining posts, which are being filled by this Ministry, the percentage fixed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been completed due to non-availability of suitable candidates belonging to these communities.

NEW SALT FACTORIES

*380. SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to establish new salt factories; and
- (b) if so, what are the proposed sites for the factories?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.