

maximum w.e.f. April, 1999. However, in four metros and the Taj Trapezium, Sulphur content in diesel is even now limited to 0.25 percent maximum. Most of the PSU refineries supply diesel to other places also with Sulphure content much below 1 percent.

(b) To supply 0.25 percent Sulphur diesel throughout the country Public Sector Refineries are implementing diesel hydrosulphurization projects at various locations at a cost of about Rs. 5600 crores.

Freedom fighters' pension

*245. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications from freedom fighters' pending with Government as on date, State-wise;

b) what steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of pension cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that many cases are pending for more than last ten years without proper correspondence; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the early disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government of India received 6,17,183 applications for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension out of which the Pension in respect of 1,64,135 persons was sanctioned after due verification and recommendations of the State Governments and the remaining applications were rejected. The Government have received several review petitions. As on 11.12.1998, out of 4,168 review petitions pending as on 30.11.1998, 1,731 have been disposed and 2,437 review petitions are under consideration. Efforts are

being made to dispose of all these review petitions expeditiously.

There are, however, applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension in respect of Hyderabad Liberation Movement and regional movements of Kerala which have been referred to the concerned State Governments and their responses are awaited.

permanent defence structure on Indo-Pak border in Punjab

*246. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to build permanent defence structures for manning the sensitive Indo-Pak border in Punjab;

(b) whether in the absence of such permanent defence structure, how many times defence forces of Pakistan tried to infiltrate into our territory during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check any type of infiltration by Pakistanis into our territory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (c) During peace time, Punjab portion of the Indo-Pak border is manned by the Border Security Force. This portion of the border has been almost completely fenced and border observation posts and watch towers have been constructed for border management in peace time. For war, the army has constructed permanent defence structures the details of which cannot be divulged for security reasons.

Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infiltration and military which include, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and