

reports from concerned police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by applicants, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents etc. In fact, in majority of cases, the Passport Office, Hyderabad has been processing applications and issuing passports within a period of 40 days.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Arms and Ammunition into the Country

359. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives have been smuggled into the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government into the matter and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Recently there have been instances wherein arms, ammunitions and explosives were smuggled into the country. Available information with regard to seizure of arms etc. is giving in the Annexure [See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 16].

(c) Government is alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps in this regard. State Governments have been asked to appoint nodal officers for coordinating all actions for carrying out reinforced surveillance. Other steps include gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and a close coordination between the concerned Central and state agencies.

Terminal Benefits to the Employees of National Textile Corporation in Gujarat

360. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the employees of NTC mills in Gujarat are yet to get their terminal benefits after their superannuation;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) by when these employees are likely to get their dues;

(d) whether Government have framed any guidelines in this regard in order to mitigate their hardships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not following the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) On account of acute shortage of working capital requirements, NTC has been able to pay only net wages to the workers/employees of NTC mills in Gujarat. As a result, there has been some default in payment of post retirement dues to the superannuated employees of NTC towards PF & ESI. An amount of Rs. 43.21 lakhs is outstanding to the superannuated employees of NTC (Gujarat) towards PF & ESI dues.

(c) to (e) On account of net worth erosion of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC, these 8 subsidiary corporations including NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. Government have approved a revised Turn Around Plan for NTC mills in Gujarat involving modernisation of six out of eleven mills and restructuring of 5 unviable mills into 3 viable units by merger. This plan involve an outlay of Rs. 158.25 crores. The funds will be generated out of sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. Pending approval of the rehabilitation plan by BIFR and its implementation, Government are meeting the shortfall faced by NTC towards payment of wages and salaries. Once the BIFR approves the rehabilitation plan for NTC (Guj.) and funds become available, it is expected that NTC (Guj.) will be able to clear all outstanding terminal dues of the superannuated employees of its mills. In the meanwhile, the company is