

20,000/- and that of VCPs from Rs. 11,500/- to Rs. 14,500/- depending upon the model. No reliable information of the price of smuggled VCRs/VCPs is available.

(d) The anti smuggling machinery remain alert against smuggling and marketing of all contraband including VCRs and VCPs. The smuggled goods are seized by the enforcement agencies throughout the country under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Revival of Bengal Potteries limited.

1552. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for revival of Bengal Potteries Limited, Calcutta; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) After considering various options for revival, the Government had come to the conclusion that it was not possible to operate the unit on a viable basis. Government, therefore, had decided to de-notify the undertaking with effect from 1-11-1987. However, on a writ Petition filed by Bengal Potteries' Workers' and Staff Unions and others the Calcutta High Court stayed the implementation of the Central Government's decision of de-notification, and *status-quo* was maintained. The Writ Petition is pending in the Calcutta High Court and thus the matter is *sub-judice*. The Central Government's existing decision is not to manage the unit any further in view of its non-viability.

Allegations of violations of human rights by Armed Forces in North-East region

1553. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased:

(a) whether there have been persistent allegations of human rights violations in the North-East and

abuse of power by the armed forces with arbitrary detention, torture, rape and extra-judicial killings;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up any judicial inquiry into the allegations emanating from Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram regarding human rights violations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the matter was seriously raised on the UN panel meet recently?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There have been no allegations of atrocities by the Army in the North Eastern States in the recent past except from Assam, in the wake of the launching of OF Bajrang in 1990. All allegations have been carefully looked into and most of them have been found to be baseless and motivated. Even where minor deviations from laid down rules and procedure have come to notice stern action has been taken against the defaulting personnel. Out of the 292 writ petitions pertaining to alleged atrocities by the Army, disposed off by the Guwahati High Court, the orders in 291 have been in favour of the Government.

The Indian Army is a highly patriotic and professional armed force which has been maintaining the highest traditions of devotion to the cause. There is absolutely no justification for setting up any judicial enquiry into the allegations of human rights violations.

(e) An allegation in respect of Manipur State was raised by a representative before the UN Human Rights Committee in March 1991, which was challenged and replied to by the Indian Representative.