

(c) The anti-smuggling drive, in general, has been intensified throughout the country to prevent the smuggling of goods, including drugs.

### Multiplicity of trade unions

\*456. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 124 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 1987 and state what progress has since been made in the matter of bringing forward a comprehensive legislation to check the multiplicity of trade unions in an industrial unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The proposed Bill is under finalisation.

### Irregularities in N.T.C. Ltd., New Delhi

\*457. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:  
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation Limited, New Delhi is reported to have violated relevant provisions of the Companies Act in conducting its business;

(b) whether the Corporation has not yet finalised its annual accounts for the year 1986-87 nor has it formulated the annual production plan and the Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1987-88;

(c) whether the Corporation has been defying decisions of the Board of Directors; and

(d) if so, what action is being proposed to be taken to remove the present management and appoint competent management immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The annual accounts of (NTC Holding Company) for the year 1986-87 have been finalised. They have, however, yet to be adopted by the AGM. The annual production plan and the Memorandum of Understanding for the 1987-88 has been prepared by NTC and is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों को ऋणों का सवितरण

\*458. श्री चन्द्रका प्रसाद त्रिपाठी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) स्टैप अप योजना के अन्तर्गत भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों को ऋणों का सवितरण किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति की गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ऋणों की स्वयंसेवा देने की गति बहुत धीमी है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उसको तेज करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(घ) सरकार असहयोगी बैंकों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनादन पंजारी) : (क) से (घ) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि बैंकों ने शहरी गरीबों के विशेष प्रशिक्षण और रोजगार कार्यक्रम (स्टैप अप) के अन्तर्गत भोपाल गैस पीड़ितों के 16456 मामलों में 9.53 करोड़ रुपए की राशि मंजूर की है। आगे चल कर यह भी बताया गया है कि सितम्बर, 1987 के अन्त तक 14279 मामलों में 7.89 करोड़ रुपए की राशि का भुगतान किया जा चुका था।

इन ऋणों को मंजूर करने और इनके सवितरण के बारे में प्रगति पर अपर कलक्टर, भोपाल और संस्थागत वित्त निदेशालय, मध्य प्रदेश, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक;

अग्रणी बैंक और संबद्ध बैंको के प्रति-निधियों को मिला कर बनाए गए एक कृत्तिक बल द्वारा स्थानीय स्तर पर निरन्तर नजर रखी जा रही है। नए मामले प्रायोजित करने पड़ेगे ताकि बैंक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर सके।

### Reduction in import duty on Copper

\*459. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRA-TAP SINGH:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum for the reduction of import duty on copper;

(b) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices is already considering the issue of fixing domestic copper price and is to submit its report soon to Government;

(c) whether the traders have urged Government to do away with the import duty prior to receipt of BI CP's report;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is being proposed to stop such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (e) the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been asked to make a comprehensive study of the domestic cost of production of copper and also recommend a suitable pricing policy for copper in the country. Their report is awaited. Meanwhile, Government has received representations from associations representing copper consuming industries for reduction in import duty on copper on the ground of steep rise of copper prices in the country due to increase in international prices and exchange rate of Pounds Sterl-

ing. The matter is under examination of the Government.

### Discrimination in grant of pension to freedom fighters

\*460. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for making a discrimination in the grant of pensions to the freedom fighters on the ground of the date of application even if the services rendered to the nation are exactly the same including the duration of confinement, sufferings undergone, etc.; and

(b) whether Government would consider removing this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Under the liberalised Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, the last date fixed for receipt of applications was 31.7.1981 which was later extended to 31.3.1982. However, all those who had applied under the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme 1972 were not required to apply afresh. As such sufficient opportunity was given to freedom fighters to file their applications in time. However, in order not to deprive deserving persons of the Sainik Samman Pension and other benefits, application for pension are accepted even when these are presented after the last date when the claim is based on documentary evidence and credible reasons are forthcoming for delay in submission of application. This is by way of exception to the general rule. The intention is merely to extend the benefits and facilities available under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme to freedom fighters whose suffering is proved by official records even though, they had not applied before the last date. There is no intention to discriminate in the grant of pension to freedom fighters.

(b) Does not arise.