

the cost of living. This applies to all allowances.

Creches run by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms

2773. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the age limit of children eligible for admittance to creches in Delhi under the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms has recently been raised;

(b) the number of children permitted to be kept in creches;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of seats in the creches in North Avenue, New Delhi, has been doubled; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that creches are not over crowded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of Children admitted in each of the creches depends upon the space available. No specific number as such has been prescribed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It will be our efforts to see that no over crowding is allowed to take place.

Freedom Fighters' Pension for those who participated in the struggle for Liberation of Goa

2774. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to grant freedom fighters' pension to those who participated in the struggle for liberation of Goa in 1955;

(b) if so, what are details of rules and guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) the number of applications received for grant of pension;

(d) the number of those cases cleared for grant of pension; and

(e) the steps being taken to dispose of the pending applications in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The freedom fighters who took part in Goa Liberation Movement against the Portuguese and suffered minimum period of six months Jail/underground suffering are eligible for grant of pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

(c) 2910 applications were received.

(d) Pension has been sanctioned in 647 cases and 1519 cases have been rejected as the claims therein have not been found covered under the provisions of the Samman Pension Scheme.

(e) Most of the cases are awaiting finalisation for want of verification report from the State Government and/or requisite information/documents from the applicants. On request from Ministry of Home Affairs the Government of Goa have formed an advisory committee at the State level to help to scrutinise the claims of freedom fighters.

Harijan Children contracting Tetanus due to burn injury

2775. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports which appeared in a section of the Press to the effect that as many as 132 children, mostly belonging to the Harijans and backward classes, had been admitted, during the last one year to Rajkot's Children's Hospital,