

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBAIAH): (a) The number of such applications received from widows of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu State where the freedom fighters themselves had not applied for pension before their demise, is 327.

(b) Sanctioned—35.

Rejected—253.

(c) and (d) Application under the Swatantrata Sainik Saman Pension Scheme of the Central Governments are decided on merits with reference to the provisions of this Scheme irrespective of whether the applicants are getting State pension or not, under the State Government Scheme.

533. [Transferred to the 21th July, 1984.]

Oceanographic Research

534. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

(a) whether oceanographic investigations, exploration and research are being conducted along the coastal waters of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey and exploration of the coastal waters are done by several agencies. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has done considerable work in the offshore exploration of oil and gas. The National Institute of Oceanography, on behalf of the Department of Ocean Development, has been conducting surveys of the coastal waters of India. The results of the surveys have been very encouraging. Mapping of minerals in the entire Indian western continental shelf and about 1/3rd of the eastern

continental shelf of India have been completed resulting in an understanding of placer deposits, of ilmenite, rutile zircon, phosphorite and monazite with varying proportions of magnetite and garnet.

Communal Riots in Maharashtra

535. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will, the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the loss of lives and value of properties damaged on account of recent communal riots which took place in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating their extent in Bombay, Bhiwandi and Thane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) As per the report submitted by the Government of Maharashtra, a total of 278 persons lost their lives in the communal riots, in Maharashtra as on 30-6-1984. In these riots at Bhiwandi, Bombay, Thane, Kalyan etc. approximately Rs. 766.23 Lakhs worth of properties lost/damaged.

Bharat Aluminium Project Ratnagiri

536. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress regarding construction of the Bharat Aluminium Project at Ratnagiri;

(b) what expenditure Government have incurred so far on this project; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c) Implementation of the Ratnagiri Aluminium Project could not initially be taken up due to resources constraints. Later, it was

found that the project as originally conceived would be uneconomic, and it became necessary to take up a re-assessment of the ore reserves. The question of implementation, of the project would thus depend on the additional ore reserves established and other relevant parameters including availability of power, demand for aluminium etc. The expenditure incurred on the scheme upto 1983-84 is about Rs. 194 lakhs.

Steps taken to Establish Communal Harmony

537. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister, of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have so far been taken to establish communal harmony and promote the cause of national integration in various States of the country during the last three years; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken against those who were found guilty of, spreading communal hatred during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Efforts to eradicate communalism and promotion of national integration continue to receive the highest priority by the Govt. Measures to maintain communal harmony and thereby promote national integration are reviewed from time to time. The National Integration Council and its Committees have been addressing themselves to the task of monitoring national integration and maintaining communal peace in broad terms. Pursuant to the deliberations of the Council and its Committees in the past and on the basis of experience gained of communal incidents, comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for implementation.

(b) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations that great importance should be attached to timely action on objectionable writings in newspapers and periodicals for the maintenance of communal peace and harmony.

538. [Transferred to the 27th July, 1984].

Hike in price of aluminium

539. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disproportionate hike in prices of aluminium has caused resentment both in industry and to consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has resulted in steep rise in the price of aluminium utensils thereby affecting the lower income group; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): I (a) to (c) Since the last revision of controlled prices of aluminium on 3rd December, 1981, the State Electricity Boards increased the rates of power tariff applicable to the Aluminium industry. There were increases in the costs of other inputs too. The issue of revision of aluminium prices was examined by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) after a detailed study of the cost structure of the aluminium industry. Based on the Bureau's recommendations the Government decided to increase the prices effective from 9th May, 1984. The increase in the price of primary aluminium, however, is less than that of the wholesale price index of all commodities in general during the period January, 1982 to July, 1984. Although there is no sta-