

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