

chartering foreign fishing vessels since September 1, 1984;

(b) the names of all the companies which secured clearance after September 1, 1984 giving also the number of vessels approved in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that numerous representations were made against this policy of chartering foreign vessels; and

(d) if so, what were the compelling reasons to ignore these representations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Letters of Intent for chartering deep sea fishing vessels have been issued to 17 parties for 46 vessels since 1-9-1984. Letters of Permission shall be issued to these parties upon fulfilling the conditions indicated in the letters of intent. So far, no letter of permission has been issued to any party.

(c) A number of representations have been received against the policy of chartering foreign fishing vessels. The allegations range from destruction of marine fisheries resources to affecting the interest of small fishermen. Government have examined all the representations and adequate remedial measures have been taken to protect the interest of small fishermen as well as providing specific gear, to safeguard the marine resources.

(d) The charter policy is governed by the provisions under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels) Act, 1981. The main objectives of the charter policy are to augment the fleet of deep sea fishing vessels and establish overseas markets for the optimum exploitation of the marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Group Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

1433. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly one-third of the allocations meant for the

group insurance scheme for the fishermen has been used during 1984-85; if so, what are the major hurdles in the implementation of the scheme;

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to promote group insurance of fishermen; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilise the services of national level fishermen welfare associations to extend the coverage of the scheme to all active traditional fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Out of the total allocation of Rs. 15 lakhs for the scheme during 1984-85, an amount of about Rs. 14 lakhs has been utilised so far.

(b) To popularise the programme under the scheme, the Government are subsidising the premium on personal accident policy to the active fishermen to the extent of 50 per cent and 100 per cent in case of States and Union Territories respectively. Besides, a central grant for expenditure on publicity to a maximum of 10 Per cent of the amount released by the Central Government under the scheme for subsidising the premium is also available.

(c) The Scheme is being implemented through the Fishermen Cooperative Societies/Fishermen Welfare Organisations duly recognised by the States/Union Territories.

Hindi News Agencies

1434. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister, of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(i) whether Government are aware of the most unsatisfactory financial conditions prevailing in the two Hindi news agencies Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the huge arrears of salaries of staff are cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GAD-

GIL): (a) The Government, in accordance with its firm commitment to the freedom of the Press, does not interfere in the internal functioning of the news agencies, including 'Hindustan Samachar' and 'Samachar Bharati' which are in the private sector. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not, therefore, have any detailed information about the financial of 'Hindustan Samachar' and 'Samachar Bharati'. There are, however, indications that the financial position of these two news agencies is rather weak.

(b) Presently, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Allotment of Houses to M.Ps, and Senior Government Officials

1435. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament and Central Government officials who are occupying Type VIII and Type VII General Pool houses in Delhi/New Delhi as on the 15th March, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that Secretaries to the Government of India are entitled to Type VIII houses; and sitting M.Ps, have been debarred from allotment of such houses from the General Pool;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) Information is contained in the Annexure [See Appendix CXXXII.1. Annexure No. 18].

(b) and (c) In accordance with the provisions of the Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Delhi) Rules, 1963, entitlement of the Government servants for different types of accommodation is determined on the basis of emoluments drawn on the crucial date fixed for particular allotment year. Under these rules, Officers who are in receipt of emolu-

ments of Rs. 3,000/- and above on the crucial date, including Secretaries to the Government of India and officers of equivalent rank are entitled to allotment of Type VIII (Type VII) accommodation. As a general rule, Members of Parliament are entitled to allotment of houses from the concerned House Committees of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha. However, in some cases, allotments are made from the General Pool also with a view to meet deficiency in the concerned M.Ps. Pool. The question of allotment of houses to M.Ps, from the General Pool was reviewed by the Government in April, 1984 and after careful consideration of all the aspects, guidelines were evolved. These guidelines are contained in the attached Statement (See below).

(d) Steps are being taken in conformity with the guidelines.

Statement

Guidelines/Criteria Approved by CCA. & P.M. for Allotment/Retention of General Pool Homes to/by Members of Parliament (CCA's meeting dated 24-4-84)

(i) In future, no allotment of type-VIII bungalow will be made from the general pool to any Member of Parliament without the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation;

(ii) The Minister of Works and Housing may be authorised to make allotment of accommodation from General Pool to Members of Parliament as per the following guidelines:—

(a) Members who are ex-Governors, ex-Ministers, ex-Speaker/Chief Minister, ex-Judges, ex-Ambassadors will be allotted houses of category type-VIII depending on availability;

(b) Members who were Ministers/Speakers/Chairman of Legislature in the States/P.C.C. Chief or who have been elected to Parliament for third term or more may be allotted houses of category type-VI;

(c) Other Members may be allotted houses of category type-V e.g., flats in North/South Avenues etc

(iii) Members of Parliament who are already in occupation of General Pool type-VIII/VTT accommodation may be ad-