

there is a severe power cut in the State of Rajasthan, the production of Cement there has been badly affected with the resultant short supply of Cement to Delhi. To ease the position of availability of Cement in the Union Territory, it has been planned to get supplies of Cement from the factories located in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.]

Freedom Fighters' Pension

220. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

SHRI SUJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of freedom fighter; pending at present with the Freedom Fighters Division of the Ministry for settlement of the pension cases, and for how long these have been pending, and for what reasons; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No application for the grant of pension to freedom fighters is pending initial scrutiny. However, 36,488 cases have been filed for want of documentary evidence from the freedom fighters and/or report from the concerned State Governments. As and when the requisite information is received, the cases are reviewed and pension sanctioned in eligible cases. In the case of civilian category of ex-INA personnel special efforts are being made to expedite disposal with the expert assistance of an Honorary Adviser who is himself a senior ex-INA Officer.

Construction of second highway in Pak-occupied area of Kashmir

221. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a second highway is being constructed by China in the Pak-occupied area of Kashmir;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this highway is in the area of occupied Kashmir illegally ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963;

(c) whether this highway has been used in recent months to pump Chinese arms, military instructors into Pakistan for the use of armed groups being trained in Pakistan to attack Afghanistan as also for rapidly arming Pakistan itself; and

(d) if so, what steps the Government of India propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports to the effect that China is constructing another highway in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which would be a twin to the existing Karakoram Highway. No authenticated information is, however, available so far with the Government to corroborate these reports.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Dominance of I.P.S. Officers in the Intelligence Bureau

222. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of IPS and State police officers on deputation are holding most of the posts in higher echelons of the Intelligence Bureau;