

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL); (a) to (c) Under the extent instructions which were recently liberalised competent authority in a Ministry/Department may forward all the applications submitted by a government servant in response to advertisements by the U.P.S.C. for posts filled either by holding competitive examinations or otherwise. Normally, the applications are not withheld but it is open to the competent authority concerned to withhold forwarding of such applications where it is considered to be justified in the public interest.

Release of advertisements at reduced rates to Small Newspapers

729. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the small newspapers to the effect that Government advertisements be given to them on reduced rates rather than at the rates prescribed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity on the basis of their circulation, number of pages and the size of papers,

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI JAGBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SoJar power station in Bihar

730. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: SHRI HARISHANKER -BHABHADA;

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish an experimental solar power station at Duar in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN); (a) and (b) At the request of Oil India Ltd., Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, is examining the possibility of setting up an experimental solar power station at the Dumar Oil Pumping Station in Bihar. The proposal is at the feasibility study stage.

Withdrawal of pension to freedom Fighters

731. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters State-wise, whose pension has been stopped because of their annual income from other sources reaching Rs. 5,000 limit;

(b) whether Government are contemplating any changes in the income limit in view of the rise in Income tax exemption limit and also in the cost of living index since the income limit was fixed; and

(c) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) The information is given in the attached statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The scheme provides for financial assistance to the freedom fighters and their families in indigent circumstances who have not got sufficient financial resources of their own for their maintenance. The annual income ceiling of Rs. 4,999/- was fixed for the purpose after taking into account all the relevant factors.