

ber of the Karmahom Conference, are not available for the export of marine products. A certain minimum temperature at the time of loading frozen marine cargo is necessary failing which the sea-food could deteriorate and become unacceptable to the consignees. Export of Sub-standard products would also harm our exports in the long run. Some exporters in Bombay have not accepted the prescribed conditions. The matter is under review in consultation with other authorities.

Victimization of the employees of POL Department

672. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation regarding vindictive suspension and termination of services of a large number of employees of POL Department, Bengchubi in the District of Darjeeling;

(b) whether it is a fact that the authorities have taken a revengeful attitude to victimise the trade union leaders of the employees; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the case of such victimised employees and grant them free trade union rights in the light of the Supreme Court's judgment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c) The Honourable Member has sent a letter on the subject. The facts of the case are that as a result of reduction in the work-load of the unit, 150 casual labourers, who had put in over 3 months' service, have been rendered surplus. However, 143 of them have already been provided alternative employment. No victimisation of any depot employee is involved and the question of grant of trade union rights does not arise.

Memorandum submitted to Prime Minister by Ministers and M.L.As. regarding voting rights for Sikkim citizens

673. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation consisting of the Chief Minister and Ministers of Sikkim and Members of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly belonging to different political parties, met the Prime Minister recently and submitted a memorandum to him;

(b) if so, what was the assurance given by the Prime Minister to the delegation; and

(c) whether Government have issued any Order to amend the Sikkim Citizens Order, 1975 so as to ensure enrolment of a large number of people of Sikkim as voters and exercise of right of franchise by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Minister had assured the delegation that the suggestions made in their memorandum will be carefully considered.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Memorandum from Denoli Field Tribes Welfare Association

674. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum dated the 17th August, 1978 from the Denoli Field Tribes Welfare Association, Thiruvottiyur, Madras regarding the rampant police harassment to the Denoli field tribes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and