

(c) what assistance Government have rendered or propose to render to the dependents of the missing officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A.S.I. Bachan Singh is missing since 10-7-1977 and is not traceable. A case F.I.R. No. 318 u/s 365 IPC has been registered at P. S. Seelampur and the investigation is being done by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police.

(b) Shri Bachan Singh was granted freedom fighters pension due to his suffering in the INA Movement. His pension has not been withheld.

(c) The dependents of a living freedom fighter are not entitled to the grant of freedom fighters pension. Since there is no evidence so far that Shri Bachan Singh is dead, the transfer of pension to the wife and her daughters cannot be considered at this stage. Shri Bachan Singh's wife has meanwhile applied to the I.G.P. for financial assistance from the Discretionary Grant and also from the Delhi Police Mutual Benefit Fund and the matter is being processed. The case for enlistment of the daughter of the A.S.I. is also receiving attention.

Appointments in Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat

fl201. SHRI SHIVDAYAL SINGH CHAURASIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the matter of service avenues of scientific staff in the Regional Research Laboratory of the CSIR at Jorhat considerations other than qualifications and merits are given weight;

(b) what is the number of persons with their qualifications, (i) who ap-

+Previously Unstarred Question 897 transferred from the 7th December 1977.

plied for the posts of Scientists 'B' grade onwards; (ii) who were interviewed; and (iii) who were selected; during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that persons without any science qualifications have been considered for the posts of Scientists in the Laboratory; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Hon'ble Member when it is complete.

Treating of deficit on Bhakra-Nangal Project of composite Punjab as capital portion of the Project

J.1202. SHRI RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interest up to 1962-63 amounting to Rs. 36.97 crores on the Bhakra-Nangal Project and the deficit on account of the said Project from 1963-64 to 31st October, 1966 amounting to Rs. 15,09,13,043 were treated as capital portion of the Bhakra-Nangal Project of the composite Punjab State;

(b) whether the Haryana Government has made a reference to the Central Government under section 66 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act urging them to treat the same as loan of the composite Punjab State; and

(c) if so, what steps Central Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Interest charges on the Bhakra-Nangal Project upto 62-63 amounting to Rs. 36.97

^Previously Unstarred Question 910 transferred from the 7th December, 1977.