

Fifth Plan period which will be considered by the National Development Council in due course.

Newsprint allotment to new publications

622. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for not issuing newsprint to the newly started newspapers for the first six months of their start; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) and (b) Under the Newsprint Allocation Policy for the year 1974-75, announced on 7th June 1974, no new newspapers and periodicals will be allotted newsprint quota for the first six months of the licensing year or six months from the date of publication. This has been done to meet the situation arising out of acute shortage of newsprint.

Political pension to freedom fighters hailing from Karnataka

623. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received so far from the political sufferers hailing from Karnataka for the grant of political pension; and

(b) the number amongst them who have been sanctioned pension and the number of those whose cases are still pending for more than a year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) 11,366 applications have been received from Freedom Fighters of Karnataka.

(b) Out of these, 4204 cases have been sanctioned pension, 1126 rejected, 1444 filed for want of requisite documentary evidence and 4592 pending due to incomplete information including 967 cases pending for more than a year.

Irrigation Projects

624. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) since when Hurangi, Hemavathi and Kabini irrigation projects are pending with the Central Government for clearance and administrative approval and the reasons for withholding clearance; and

(b) what is the financial assistance provided to the State Government for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The revised project report of Harangi was received in April, 1973 and those of Hemavathi and 3 Kabini in October, 1973. These projects lie in the Cauvery basin. The clearance of these projects would depend on the settlement of the Cauvery Waters Dispute.

(b) Does not arise.

Ganga-Cauvery Link Project

625. SHRI B. P. NAGARAIA MURTHY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the progress made so far in the Ganga-Cauvery link project?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT):

Some paper studies, based on the data available and the topographical maps, have been carried out. Studies of surpluses and deficits in various sub-basins, basins, area and regions needed for identification of links connecting different river systems and investigations required thereafter are now proposed to be undertaken in the Fifth Plan. Such a scheme is by its nature a long range one and the investigations themselves may take about 10 years or more.

Strength of Muslims in Central Government Services

626. SHRI SHYAMLAL YADAV:

SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of Muslims, cadrewise, and categorywise in the

Central Government as on 31st March, 1974; and

(b) the number of Muslims in public sector undertakings as on 31st March, 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) There is no reservation for persons belonging to minority communities (other than Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes) in the matter of appointment to posts/services under the Central Government. No data about the number of Muslims employed under the Central Government and the public undertakings is, therefore, available.

Thermal Power Plants at Coal Pit Heads

627. SHRI B. P. NAGARAIA MUR-IHY. Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to have new big thermal power plants at the coal pit heads so that power can be lent to other non-coal bearing States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) A Committee has been set up by this Ministry for selection of sites for setting up of large thermal power stations in different regions in the coal bearing areas for the benefit of the States in the region.

Detailed proposals have yet to be evolved.

Violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act by Union Carbide Company Limited

628. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Carbide Company Limited, the subsidiary of a U.S.-based multi-national Corporation operating in India, has been charged with violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;

(b) if so, what are the charges which have been levelled against the firm; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) A complaint was received alleging *inter alia* that the export of frozen shrimps by M/s. Union Carbide India Limited was resulting in loss of Foreign Exchange to the country. In one case of export of shrimps to Japan by this firm through Visakhapatnam Custom House the price for certain grades of shrimps was suspected to be lower than the prevailing price. In this case the export was allowed by the Custom House on execution of a bond. Further inquiries are in progress.

People Living Below Poverty Line

629. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent book written by the former Member of Planning Commission, Dr. Minhas, wherein he has asserted that two-thirds of the Indian population now live below poverty line;

(b) the criteria followed by the Planning Commission in determining the number of persons living below poverty line; and

(c) the State-wise number and percentage of persons living below poverty line during the years 1960-61, 1967-68 and 1973-74?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Monthly per capita private consumption of Rs. 20 at 1960-61 prices is regarded as the minimum desirable level of consumption. The number of people with less than this level of consumption are regarded as poor.

(c) The estimates of State-wise number and percentage of persons living below poverty line in 1960-61, 1967-68 and 1973-74 are not available. Similar estimates for 1964-65 are, however, available and are presented in the accompanying statement.