

and (b) In the light of the statements made by Sheikh Mohamad Abdullah to the effect that he regarded himself committed to the act of accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India, Government of India, after consulting the State Government, agreed that Shri G. Parthasarathy and Sheikh Abdullah's nominee, Shri Afzal Beg, could meet with a view to exchanging ideas. In continuation of the discussions held between the two, Shri Swaran Singh, Minister of External Affairs, met Sheikh Abdullah and had talks with him in June, 1974. The discussions are continuing.

Use of .Viuli.ii Charkha

SOI. SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent on the Ambar Charkha Project; and

(b) the number of Ambar Charkhas now in use in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) An amount of Rs. 1,914.19 lakhs was spent on the Ambar Charkha Project (including New Model Charkha Programmes) upto 31st March, 1973.

(b) 1,58,085 Ambar Charkhas (including New Model Charkhas) are in use in the country.

Home for aged and infirm freedom fighters

302. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:

SHRI A. N. MULLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 467 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 1974 and state:

(a) by when first temporary home for the aged, infirm, ailing and physically handi-

capped freedom fighters is proposed to be set up in Delhi;

(b) by when accommodation for the purpose is likely to be available; and

(c) by when applications for admission to the home are proposed to be entertained?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) It has already been decided to set up a temporary Home in Delhi for about 25 aged and infirm freedom fighters who Travel to 6"he to look after.

(b) and (c) The procedure for admission to the temporary Home will be finalised after suitable accommodation has been secured and other administrative arrangements have been completed.

Suicides in the country

303. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides committed in the country during the last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a)

Year	Number of suicides		
1970	...	...	48428
1971	...	...	43675
1972	...	...	36330*

*Excluding West Bengal.

(b) Various socio-economic and psychological tensions are the main contributory factors to the committing of suicides.

Cauvery water issue

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

(a) whether any efforts Government have recently made to settle the Cauvery Water Issue; and