

GALLANTRY AND DISTINGUISHED / SERVICES AWARDS

*508. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of awards for gallantry and distinguished services given to members of the Armed Forces, Territorial Army, paramilitary organisations and civilian during the Indo-Pakistan conflicts in 1965 and 1971 respectively;

(b) the break-up of the awards service-wise; and

(c) the ranks of the recipients ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (c) A statement indicating the number of awards given to officers and other ranks service-wise for gallantry and distinguished service in connection with the India-Pakistan conflict of 1965 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix Lxxix, Annexure No. 57] Another statement indicating such awards given upto 5th April, 1972 in connection with the India-Pakistan conflict of 1971 is also laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 58]

CASES OF INCOME-TAX ARREARS

*509. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that steps are being taken to withdraw the cases of Income-tax arrears of Shri Biju Patnaik and his group of companies pending in Courts;

(b) if so what steps are being taken to collect the arrears of income-tax from the companies with which Shri Biju Patnaik is connected, including the Kalinga Trust ; and

(c) whether the same yard-stick would be applied to other such cases of income-tax arrear presently pending in courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHORTAGE OF NAPHTHA

*510. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Naphtha in the country which is threatening India's fertiliser production;

(b) if so the reasons for the shortage;

(c) what is the annual requirement of Naphtha as against availability; and

(d) what steps are being taken to meet the shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (d) Total availability of naphtha during the current year out of indigenous production and imports will meet the full requirements of the fertilizers and petrochemical plants. The demand during the current year is estimated at 16.5 lakh tonnes. This is proposed to be met by indigenous production of naphtha to the extent of 13.3 lakh tonnes and by imports to the extent of 3.2 lakh tonnes. Commitments for importing 2 lakh tonnes have already been made by the Indian Oil Corporation. Arrangements for the import of the balance quantity will be made at the appropriate time later this year after taking into account the actual materialisation of indigenous production and consumption of naphtha.

HELP OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS

*511. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet technicians were invited and allowed to build port facilities on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and in the ore port of Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether these technicians were invited because Indian technicians were not available for this project; and

(c) whether Indian defence personnel are required to get a special permit to visit these works handled by the Soviet technicians ?