

export it would be essential to resort to the import of cotton and cotton yarn worth Rs. 230 crores; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?]

विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र) : (क) तथा (ख) सरकार को ऐसे किसी सरकारी या गैर-सरकारी निकाय के अस्तित्व की जानकारी नहीं है। और ऐसी कोई सूचना भी प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

[THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE /विदेश व्यापार मंत्री (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of the existence of any such body, official or non-Official. Nor has any such report been received.]

EXPOET OF SALT

*546. SHRI BALCHANDRA MENON:

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/विदेश व्यापार मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of salt is likely to register sharp decline in the current season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to step up the export of salt?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

/विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Judging from the export trends during the past two yeais, it is possible that there may be a marginal decline in the export of salt during the current year.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The declining trend in salt exports is mainly on account of the fact that one of our most important customers, namely Japan, has not been purchasing this commodity from India since July, 1970. The fall in the Japanese off-take from India is mainly due to

[] English translation.

the increase in ocean freight rates and to the faster loading rates offered by other salt exporting countries such as Mexico and Australia.

Government are taking remedial measures to arrest the decline in salt exports. To compensate for the fall in the off-take by Japan, the STC which is the canalising agency for the export of salt has diversified the export of salt to other countries such as Tanzania, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Nepal. The prices paid by these countries for our salt are higher than the prices offered by Japan. Efforts are also continuously being made by the STC to regain our share in the Japanese market and to improve the loading rate of salt at selected ports in India.

MEMORANDUM FROM ALL INDIA POST AND TELEGRAPHS PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

*547. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:
SHRI S. C. ANGRE;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the A.I. Post and Telegraphs Pensioners' Association, Poona seeking inclusion of the case of Central Government pensioners in the terms of reference of the Pay Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that while cost of living has been rising greatly, pensions have remained virtually stagnant over the past two or three decades;

(c) whether Government have decided to accept the demand; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

/सहायक मंत्री (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes.

Sir.

(b) No, Sir, Pensionary benefits have been liberalised from time to time since independence. Relief has

also been sanctioned to small pensioners. The rates of such relief have also been revised in the recent years.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to include the case of pensioners in the terms of reference of the Pay Commission, but Government propose to consider, in due course, the question of grant of relief to pensioners in the light of general recommendations of the (Pay CommisGion in the matter of pensionary benefits for serving Government servants.

DEATHS DUE TO POLICE FIRINGS IN WEST BENGAL

*548. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: SHRI NIREN GHOSH: DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY: SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS

be pleased to state the total number of deaths by police firings in West Bengal, district-wise, during the last term of the President's rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/

(SHRI K. C. PANT): According to the information available, 159 persons were killed due to police firings in West Bengal during the period of President's rule between 19-3-1970 and 15-3-1971. District-Wise details and further information are awaited from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GRANT OF STATEHOOD TO GOA DAMAN AND DIU

*549. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS /! ? *fcft be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Goa Assembly's recent demand for the grant of Statehood to Goa, Daman and Diu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government in the matter? t

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF HOME AFFAIRS/

(SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) The Government has noted the Resolution passed by the Legislative As- " sembly of Goa, Daman and Diu in March, 1971 urging the Central Government to enact necessary legislation to grant statehood to the Union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu.

27TH SESSION OF ECAFE CONFERENCE

◆550. SHRI BABUBHAIM. CHINAI:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE/ विदेश व्यापार मंत्रा

be pleased to state the main conclusions arrived at the 27th Session of the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East, which was held recent-ly at Manila with regard to expansion of trade amongst under-developed countries?