

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?

## THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE

(SHRI L. N. MISHRA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

The main conclusions arrived at the Twenty-seventh Session of the ECAFE with regard to expansion of trade among developing ECAFE countries are the following:

(i) The declining trend in intra-regional trade among developing ECAFE countries was viewed with concern and the vital need was emphasised to arrest this trend, and to stimulate trade between developing countries in the region through the early adoption of a mutually beneficial programme of trade expansion supplemented by other facilitation measures in accordance with the Kabul Declaration.

(ii) To this end, it was agreed that the first session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Asian trade expansion established by the Council of Ministers at their meeting at Kabul in December, 1970 should be convened around the middle of this year.

(iii) The progress made towards the establishment of an Asian Clearing Union was reviewed and it was urged that necessary follow up action should be taken on an expeditious basis to establish the Union as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its meeting in March, 1971.

(iv) It was agreed that further work should be done in regard to commodities of interest to ECAFE developing countries in an attempt to evolve schemes for regional action.

(v) It was decided that the activities of the ECAFE Trade Promotion Centre should be strengthened in order to enable it to render assistance to member countries to develop marketing competence and promote their exports, and enable

their more effective participation in the proposed programme for trade expansion in the region.

(vi) It was further decided that work should be intensified to evolve a scheme for export credit insurance and export credit finance and refinance in co-operation with the Asian Development Bank and other relevant organizations.

(vii) It was also agreed to intensify efforts in other supporting fields of economic activity to facilitate trade expansion such as industrialization, agricultural development, commercial and transportation infrastructure, and emphasis was given to the urgent need for initiating action to secure reduction in freight rates, wherever possible.

## MEMORANDUM FROM RUBBER GROWERS OF KERALA

\*551. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA  
MENON: DR. K. MATHEW  
KURIAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently received any memorandum from the Rubber Growers of Kerala on their grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE/

(SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Rubber Growers of Kerala offered some suggestions towards stabilisation of natural rubber prices. The State Trading Corporation entered the market in October, 1970 to effect purchase of raw rubber at minimum prices fixed by the Government in order to stabilise the market.