

[15 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

are at present six Units engaged in re-rolling not steel operating in Pondicherry.

(b) During the last three years, the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee granted "no objection" certificate to the setting up of seven such Units subject to fulfilment of certain conditions to ensure that these Units function within the prescribed environment standards. None of these Units have commenced production.

(c) No, Sir. this is not required.

(d) No, Sir. The re-rolling of steel is an activity with low pollution potential.

Demand for making Tamil as official language

5160. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been received for making Tamil as one of the official languages of the Union; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not taken any decision in this regard. As per the provisions of the Constitution and in pursuance to the official Languages Act, 1963, Hindi and English are being used as Official Language of the Union, for the present.

Additional Posts for strengthening Internal Security at the Border

†5161. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for creation of 90 additional posts for the purpose of strengthening of internal security at the border;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the above posts;
- (c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance on the above said proposal;
and
- (d) the burden likely to be caused to Government revenue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The Group of Ministers on Reforming National Security had made several recommendations for strengthening the internal security in the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs had proposed creation of 94 posts for this purpose. The Ministry of Finance has, however, accepted, in principle, the justification for creation of 65 posts subject to the condition that 45 of these 65 posts may be located from the existing strength of the Ministry through re-deployment. The details of the number of posts to be created are yet to be finalised. The estimated expenditure involved will depend on the number of posts finally approved for creation.

Truck drivers challaned for rash driving

5162. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Delhi Age dated 25th April, 2002 under the heading police-truckers nexus proves a road hazard';
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto; and
- (c) what is the number of truck drivers challaned for rash driving during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) and (c) It has been alleged in the news report under reference that truck drivers openly flout traffic norms particularly at night because of their nexus with the police to whom they make monthly