

(b) There is no change in Government's policy. India has declared many a time that she has no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. We have always believed that nuclear energy should be used for peaceful purposes.

While we are aware of developments in nuclear capability in neighbouring countries, we do not visualise a nuclear threat at present. Government continue to hold that the defence of our country can be ensured by adequate military preparedness based on non-nuclear weapons.

Development of Marathawada

2242. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aurangabad (Division) Industries Association, Aurangabad (Maharashtra) had sent a letter on 22-4-77 about the problems of industrial development in Marathawada, one of the most backward regions in Maharashtra;

(b) the nature of problems; and

(c) decision of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Establishment of public sector or defence industry in Marathawada in the interest of overall development of the small industries including ancillary industries.

(ii) The Government should make it a condition of the licence issued to large scale industries in backward areas to have all their ancillary development in the same backward area through local entrepreneurs. This condition should also be imposed on the industries that have already been licensed.

(iii) The list of reserved items for SSI units should be increased to cover more items which are manufactured by the small scale units in substantially large quantities.

(iv) The present system of canalising the imports through STC/MMTC for subsequent distribution to the actual user industrial units be stopped and the actual industrial units be given licenses for importing their own requirements.

(v) It is absolutely essential that a steel stockyard be established at a suitable point within this region.

(vi) Central and State Government departments should be directed to purchase all their requirements of consumer items from small scale units without considering even the lower prices that might be offered by the large scale units.

(vii) The working of the Employees State Insurance Corporation requires to be rationalised, as the prevailing system of ESI scheme is not fully beneficial either to the worker or to the employer.

(c) As the points raised in the letter are being examined, Government have not yet taken decision thereon.

Introduction of T.V. in Hyderabad and Vijayawada

2243. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration for introduction of Television in Hyderabad and Vijayawada; and

(b) if so, the time by which the T.V. Centres in these two towns are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). A ten kilowatt T. V. transmitter is now under installation at Hyderabad to provide continuity to the SITE programme which was in operation for a year from 1st August, 1975. It is expected to start functioning in the latter half of 1977. There is at present no proposal to set up a T.V. Centre at Vijayawada.

Amount spent on Payment of Pension to Political Sufferers

2244. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount incurred by Government by way of payment of pension to political sufferers and Ex-IN.A. personnel since 15th August, 1972, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) whether Government intend to scrap the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) The figures of annual expenditure on payment of pension to political sufferers (freedom fighters) and Ex-I.N.A. personnel are as under:—

| Year | Actual Expenditure (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 1972-73 | 0.63 |
| 1973-74 | 16.32 |
| 1974-75 | 22.96 |
| 1975-76 | 24.11 |
| 1976-77 | 25.00 (provisional) |

The State-wise figures of expenditure are not available.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Grant of Pension to Political Sufferers

2245. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons granted pension as political sufferers and ex-INA personnel so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received by Government against such pensioners and the number of cases that were enquired into and found correct;

(c) whether only those persons who suffered during the freedom struggle warrant the payment of pension; and

(d) whether this compensation has been extended irrespective of the income of pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) A statement showing State-wise, the number of persons granted pension as political sufferers and ex-INA personnel is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No. LT—560/77].

(b) Up to 31st May, 1977, 4846 complaints have been received. All the complaints are being enquired into and, so far, Pension has been cancelled in 233 cases after investigation through the State Governments.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) No, Sir. The pension is granted to those Freedom Fighters whose annual income is less than 5,000.

Instructions to States during Emergency to terminate the Services of Employees

2246. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the emergency the Central Government had given any instructions to the State Government to terminate the services of any State Government employee;