

zealand Government to foster a closer relationship with India, we may look forward to a betterment of our relations with New Zealand.

#### Airport at Pondicherry

5640. Dr. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Union Territory of Pondicherry is without an Airport;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to construct one Airport there; and

(c) if so, when it will be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no immediate plans to construct an airport in Pondicherry.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Maintenance of CRs of Government Servants

5641. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the instructions in respect of maintenance of Character Rolls or Confidential Reports of the Government servants; and

(b) whether any instances of misuse of power by higher officers, in writing Confidential Reports of their subordinate officers have come to the notice of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) A review of the Performance Appraisal System has been taken on hand by Government.

(b) With a view to minimising the operation of subjective human element and of conscious bias, the instructions relating to preparation and

evaluation of Confidential Reports provide for assessment at two levels. Further, adverse remarks if any, have also to be communicated to the Government servant concerned to afford him an opportunity of representing against them. In view of these built-in safeguards in the procedures, there is little scope for misuse of power in writing Confidential Reports.

#### Settlement of Cases of Freedom Fighters from Tamil Nadu

5642. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications for freedom fighters' pension are pending with the Freedom Fighters' Division of the Ministry for a long time and in some cases, for several years;

(b) whether such pending cases include cases where the State Government concerned has sanctioned State Government pension and has recommended grant of Central Government Freedom Fighters' pension;

(c) the number of applications/cases from the State of Tamil Nadu falling under (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix a time-limit for passing final orders in each pending case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Out of a total of 430,415 applications received so far both under the 1972 and 1980 Schemes, pension has been sanctioned to 132,859 freedom fighters and their dependents as on 31-3-1985. 191,187 cases have been rejected and 106,368 cases are pending mainly for want of verification reports from the State Governments.

(b) The grant of pension under the State Scheme does not automatically constitute eligibility for Central Pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme as the criteria of eligibility under the State Scheme and the Central Scheme are quite different. However, a few of the cases recommended by various State Governments are under consideration.