

used for storing agricultural commodities, agricultural inputs etc.

Release of Indian Fishermen Captured by Sri lankan Army

4687. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 28th March, 1990 four hundred indian fishermen were taken as prisoners by the Sri lankan soldiers from Indian waters in Palk Straits, between India and Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their release and to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) On 27th March, 1990, nearly 300 fishermen and their boats were abducted from the high seas by armed groups of men and detained at a point on the Northern Sri Lanka Coast.

(b) On receipt of this information, our High Commission in Colombo took up the matter immediately with the concerned Sri Lankan authorities. The fishermen and their boats were released on 30th March, 1990 and returned to India. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard continue to take preventive measures to avoid such incidents.

[English]

Financial assistance for development of FACT, Kerala

4688. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to give financial assistance for the development of Fertilizers and Chemicals and Travancore limited in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to give any financial assistance to M/s. Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. except that for the Annual Plan of 1989-90. An amount of Rs. 20 crores was provided as budgetary support.

Increase in Court cases in Freedom Fighters Division

4689. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Court cases in the Freedom Fighters Division is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) (a) to (c). There was increasing trend of Court cases upto 1988 but in the Year 1989 the number of Court cases has decreased. The Government sanctions pension on the basis of prescribed criterion and level of evidence.