

General of Forests during his mission in June, 1974. Subsequently his report was received.

(b) Under bilateral aid programme between India and New Zealand, establishment of fire fighting training, research and demonstration centres has been included. The report of the New Zealand Forest Fire Control Appraisal Mission mounted in May, 1976 proposed that Fire Depot-cum-Fire Control Training School be set up at Peermade, Kerala. Equipment to fight fires like pumping sets, fire engines as well as radios are also to be provided. The details are presently being worked out in consultation with New Zealand representatives.

(c) Does not arise.

Removal of slum from Industrial Cities

3874. SHRI AHSAN JAFRI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what projects have been started to remove slum areas from the industrial cities in India and the details thereof;

(b) what is the total number of slum dwellers in the industrial cities in India; and

(c) by what time the Government intends to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The Slum Clearance/Improvement Scheme is in the state sector from 1st April, 1969 and the State Governments are competent to formulate and implement projects under the scheme depending on their over all priorities. The scheme is applicable to all cities and is not confined to any special category or categories of cities.

(b) No precise estimate of the number of slum dwellers in the country is available. A working group of the Planning Commission had estimated in 1972, on the basis of assessment of growth of slums in some of the metropolitan and major cities only, that between 20 to 25 per cent of the population in cities might be living in slums.

(c) No time limit can be indicated.

Fellowships to outstanding artists and writers

3875. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for awarding fellowships to outstanding artists and writers;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) how many artists and writers have been given the fellowship during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The scheme covers the various creative fields i.e., literature, arts, dance, theatre, music, sculpture and painting etc. Two categories of fellowships of the value of Rs. 1,000/- per month and Rs. 500/- per month are awarded; both tenable for five years.

The scheme was introduced in 1975-76 when eleven fellowships—4 in the category of Rs. 1,000/- and 7 in the category of Rs. 500/- were awarded. No awards have been made thereafter as the scheme is under revision.