

**News Item 'Bogus Freedom Fighters
Major Pension Claimant's**

3925. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news which appeared in the Indian Express dated 22 February, 1982 under the heading 'Bogus freedom fighters major pension claimants';

(b) if so, the details and facts thereabout;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):

(a) to (d). The Government is aware of the report in the Indian Express under caption 'Bogus freedom fighters major pension claimants'. It is not correct to say that a large number of bogus claimants have been enjoying the benefits of freedom fighters' pension on the basis of false documents and political patronage, while hundreds of genuine freedom fighters have not been granted pension. Care is taken, by close scrutiny of each individual case to ensure that pension is granted only to genuine freedom fighters who satisfy the criteria laid down in the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme now renamed Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. However, in some cases complaints have been received against individual freedom fighters that they have managed to get pension by furnishing incorrect and false information/evidence. Such complaints are examined promptly and in doubtful cases, a reference is made to State Govt. concerned for re-verification. In cases where there is a strong presumption that the freedom fighter is not entitled to pension, immediate action is taken to suspend the pension pending further investigation. If on completion of enquiry, the pension is found to have been wrongly obtained, it is cancelled. where it is found that the person concerned adopted fraudulent means to obtain pension, State Governments are advised

to consider the desirability of prosecuting the persons concerned. There is however, no fool-proof official machinery to detect the bogus pensioners and the possibility of a few wrong persons getting the Freedom Fighters Pension cannot be ruled out. Action to cancel pension has been taken in 650 cases so far.

Extension of E.S.I. Scheme to Employees of E.S.I.C.

3926. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of Employees State Insurance Corporation are not covered under the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to cover the employees of the Employees State Insurance Corporation in the country under its scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 do not at present apply to the establishments like ESI Corporation. However, the medical attendance and treatment facilities available in the ESI Dispensaries/Hospitals were extended to the employees of the Corporation in Andhra Pradesh in July, 1973, on an experimental basis. It was extended to the employees in U.P. w.e.f. 1-2-1982. The Corporation has now decided, in principle, to extend the ESI medical facilities gradually to their employees in other States also.

Starting Training Centres in Backward districts of U.P.

3927. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh are industrially Backward districts; and

(b) whether Government will consider starting these centres for training in various trades like carpentry, electronics, radio repairs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Of the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, six districts of Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Almora, Tehri Garhwal and Uttar Kashi are covered under the concessional finance scheme. Almora district is eligible also for Central Investment Subsidy.

(b) Starting of new Industrial Training Institutes or adding new trades in the existing ITIs is the concern of the res-

spective State Governments/Union Territories.

The hilly districts of U.P. already have 19 Government ITIs who are imparting training in various trades. Out of these, trade of carpentry is being imparted at 4 ITIs located in Hamirpur, Pauri Garhwal and Nainital Districts. Similarly trade of Electronics is being imparted at ITIs located in Almora, Garhwal, Chamoli and Nainital Districts. The trades of mechanic (Radio & TV) is being imparted at 7 ITIs located at Almora, Uttar Kashi, Garhwal, Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts. The list showing the names of ITIs where training in the trade of carpentry, electronics and mechanic (radio & TV) is being imparted is given in the attached statement.

Statement

List of ITIs situated in Hill Area of Uttar Pradesh, where the training in the trades of Carpenter, Electronics and Mechanic (Radio & TV) is being imparted:

| Sl. No. | Name of ITI | Trade | Sanctioned Strength |
|---------|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | ITI, Almora | 1. Electronics | 16 |
| | | 2. Mech. & (R. & T.V.) | 16 |
| 2. | Govt. Industrial Trg. Centre, Charkari Hamirpur | 1. Carpenter | 16 |
| 3. | ITI, Barkote | 1. Mech. (R. & T.V.) | 16 |
| 4. | ITI Phokra Pauri Garhwal | 1. Carpenter | 16 |
| 5. | ITI, Tihari Garhwal | 1. Electronics | 16 |
| 6. | ITI, Dugadda, Garhwal | 1. Mech. (R & TV) | 16 |
| 7. | ITI, Karanprayag Chamoli | 1. Mech. (C R & TV) | 16 |
| | | 32. Electronics | 16 |
| 8. | ITI, Tanakpur Nainital | 1. Carpenter | 16 |
| | | 2. Mech. (R & TV) | 32 |
| | | 3. Electronics | 32 |
| 9. | ITI Pithoragarh | 1. Meh. (R & TV) | 32 |
| 10. | ITI, Kashipur Nainital | 1. Electronics | 16 |
| | | 2. Mech. (R & TV) | 32 |
| 11. | Govt. Technical Training Centre, Nainital | 1. Carpenter | 16 |