

ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Non-official members of the Special Audit Team recommended sanction of pension in about 800 cases which had been rejected earlier. Their recommendations were based, inter alia, on their personal knowledge and liberal interpretation of the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. In certain cases they also gave the benefit of doubt to the applicants. Pension has so far been sanctioned in 650 cases recommended by them. In 50 cases it has not been found possible to accept their recommendations. The remaining cases have been taken up with the concerned State Governments/applicants.

Import of Wheat from Australia

439. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether storage facilities were considered before deciding to import wheat from Australia;

(b) if so, the reasons for lying imported wheat on ports; and

(c) the steps taken to lift wheat from the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No imported wheat is lying at the ports.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reply to MPs Letters

440. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the District Magistrates, Police Superintendents and Home Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh restricting them not to reply the letters from MPs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make it obligatory to reply the letters received from MPs?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Clear guidelines have been prescribed in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure regarding prompt action to be taken in connection with communications received from the Members of Parliament. Attention of the State Governments has been drawn to these guidelines with the request to issue suitable instructions to all the offices and Public Undertakings under their control.

[English]

Drug Price Control Order

441. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to reduce and further rationalise the list of drug under Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) in tune with the general policy of liberalisation retaining about 15 drugs under DPCO for regulating prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of representations received in this regard; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) After promulgation of Drugs (Prices Control Order on the 6th January, 1995, the Government received several representations against inclusion of certain drugs under price control which were disposed off as per the notified criterion in the "Modified Drug Policy, 1986" of 1994.

Vacant Posts in Delhi Police

442. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY' :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of key posts in Delhi Police are lying vacant resulting in the increase of crimes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the said vacancies are lying vacant alongwith the number of vacancies; and