

Regional Conferences of Overseas Indians

6807. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received from overseas Indians a suggestion for organising regional conferences of overseas Indians; and

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to extend co-operation and assistance in the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Although some suggestions, in this regard, have been made by overseas Indians, no specific request has been received by the Government.

Ferry Service Between Rameswaram and Sri Lanka

6808. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for resumption of the ferry service between Rameswaram and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Sri Lanka has reciprocated by introducing service on this route?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Government have received no recent formal request from the Sri Lanka Govt. to re-introduce the ferry service between Rameswaram and Sri Lanka. Govt. may consider the reintroduction of the ferry serv-

ice at the appropriate time. The resumption of the ferry service has to be a joint decision of both Governments of India and Sri Lanka and cannot be taken unilaterally.

(c) Government have no information as to whether the Govt. of Sri Lanka have plans to introduce a ferry service on this route.

Grant of Asylum to Indians

6809. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of Indian nationals who have been granted asylum in China, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): None.

Applications for Grant of 'Swatantrata Senani Samman Pension'

6810. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fresh applications for grant of 'Swatantrata Senani Samman Pension', received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases still pending; and

(d) the steps taken to decide the pending cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The number of fresh applications received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years of 1987,