

1988 and 1989 are 369, 349 and 503 respectively.

(b) and (c). Applications received after the last date viz. 31.3. 1982 are treated as delayed applications. Such applications are considered only where they are accompanied by evidence of suffering from official records and the applicant given adequate reasons for delay in applying. Where the applicant furnishes such evidence, the claim of the applicant is verified through the State Government and pension sanctioned to the applicant if, upon such verification, the same is found to be genuine. Other cases, including the cases where no evidence from official records has been furnished by the applicant, are rejected. No separate record is maintained for disposal of delayed applications.

(d) Action is taken to dispose of the pending case(s) as soon as the verification report from the State Government is received.

**Allegations Against Indian Intelligence Services About Explosion in Air India's 'Kanishka'**

6811. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:  
SHRI L.K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments' attention has been drawn to the allegation against some agents of Indian intelligence services, made in the book 'Soft Target' written by Canada-based two journalists about the mid air explosion in Air India's Kanishka in June, 1985;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The book entitled "Soft Target-How the Indian Intelligence Service Penetrated Canada" by Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian Mc Andrew, two Canadian journalists, was released in Canada on June 23, 1989, to coincide with the 4th anniversary of the blowing of the Air India's aircraft 'Kanishka' in June 1985. In the book, the authors have alleged that the Air India aircraft was blown by the Indian intelligence agencies to discredit the Sikhs living in Canada.

(c) These baseless allegations were refuted by the Indian High Commission in Canada through the press, radio and TV. The concern of the Government of India regarding the allegations contained in the book were also conveyed to the Canadian Government.

**Suicide by Indians in Kuwait**

6812. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Kuwait who have committed suicide during the year 1988 and 1989;

(b) the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) According to information available with the Government, there were two suicides in 1988 and three in 1989.

(b) and (c). It is understood that this extreme step was taken for personal and