

(a) whether ex-servicemen have been made eligible for 'on-request loans' under SEMFEX Scheme;

(b) if so, whether all District Soldier Welfare Boards have been informed accordingly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Subject to their satisfying the prescribed conditions, ex-servicemen including disabled service personnel and widows of service personnel, are eligible for loan assistance under SEMFEX-I and SEMFEX-II Schemes. They have no apply to the concerned Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board for this purpose.

(b) and (c). Salient features of the two schemes were brought to the notice of the Rajya Sainik Boards and, through them, the Zila Sainik Boards, by the Directorate General Resettlement in May 1987 and February 1988 respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Delay In Sanctioning Pension to Armed Forces Personnel**

7755. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is taking place in sanctioning pension to the armed forces personnel and civilians, employed in Armed Forces Headquarters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of cases in which pension has not yet been sanctioned together with the steps taken to minimise the delay in the sanction of pension and pensionary benefits in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 31st March, 1990, pension had not been sanctioned in 171 cases of Armed Forces Personnel. Pension has not been sanctioned in 6 cases of Civilians employed in Armed Forces Headquarters. Several steps like simplification and rationalisation of procedures, computerisation of notification of service pension of personnel below Officer rank and Civilians, timely initiation and correct completion of pension claim documents have been taken to minimise the delay in the sanction of pension and pensionary benefits.

#### **Regional Sports Coaching Centres in Maharashtra**

7756. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a number of regional sports coaching centres in Maharashtra for providing coaching facilities in various sports disciplines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposals under consideration for providing such facilities in Maharashtra State and Vidarbha region in particular;

(c) the number of stadia constructed/proposed to be constructed in Maharashtra and the names of the Stadia being managed and utilised by the Sports Authority of India;

(d) whether Government are consider-

ing to strengthen the existing facilities available at Hanuman Vyayam Paraharak Sport Institute at Amraoti; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided during the last three years and proposed during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir, only a Sub-Centre of the Western Regional Centre of Sports Authority of India is in the process of being set up at Aurangabad.

(b) About 1000 acres of land has been handed over by the State Government of Maharashtra to the Sports Authority of India who have already constructed a compound wall and internal roads facilities like multi-purpose hall for gymnastic, table tennis, badminton, wrestling and boxing, besides a Sports Hostel, administrative block, two tennis courts, volleyball, football, hockey and Kabaddi, etc., are to be developed.

There is no other proposal for such facilities in the Vidarbha region.

(c) No stadium has been constructed or is proposed to be constructed by the Government in Maharashtra, and no stadium is being managed and utilised by the Sports Authority of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

#### **Progress Regarding Tiger Project in Maharashtra**

7757. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress achieved

under Project Tiger in Melghat district Amraoti (Maharashtra) so far;

(b) the proposal for 1990-91 and Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether complaints have been received from villagers and tribals regarding killing of live-stock/men by wild animals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) The Melghat Tiger Reserve in Amravati District of Maharashtra state was established during 1973-74. It covers 1618 Sq. Kms. of the forest area comprising of 448 Sq. Kms. as core area and remaining as buffer area. The important wild animals found in this Tiger Reserve are tiger, leopard, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, cheetah, four horned antelope, barking deer, wild boar, blue bull, etc. The hilly deciduous forests of this reserve, dominated by teak and bamboo, represent the natural habitat of wild animals of this region. The area under Melghat Tiger Reserve is receiving protection against damaging factors like fire, illicit tree felling, poaching of wild animals, soil erosion, grazing, encroachment and unregulated tourism. The estimated number of tigers in Melghat Tiger Reserve has increased from 27 in 1972 to 77 in 1989.

(b) The Project Tiger is a long term conservation scheme. During 1990-91 the management of Melghat Tiger Reserve will be continued on the pattern of Seventh Five Year Plan. The proposals for Eighth Five Year Plan are not finalised.

(c) to (e). Details are being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.