

wherever necessary, for taking appropriate legal action against the accused persons.

(d) The State Governments make ex-gratia payments as relief to sufferers in deserving cases, keeping in view their immediate needs and circumstances. The question of payment of compensation by Government does not arise.

Central Staff Training and Research Institute

*129. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to shift some training wings of the Central Staff Training and Research Institute, Dसनगर, West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have received any expert committee's report against this shifting; and

(c) what is the opinion of the State Government in this regard and whether the Central Government will take that opinion into consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee of Experts on Training was appointed by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, to suggest ways and means for improving the quality of training in the Industrial Training Institutes and the training imparted to the apprentices in the industry. The Committee has submitted its report.

2. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that, with a view to enabling the research and Development Section at the Central Staff

Training & Research Institute, Calcutta to devote undivided attention to the work relating to research in training technology, which is itself a challenging job, it should be relieved of other responsibilities. Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that the section dealing with Audio Visual Aids at the Central Staff Training & Research Institute Calcutta be integrated with the Audio Visual and Printing Unit at Kanpur, and the training of executive and supervisory staff incharge of administration of training programmes being conducted present at C. S. T. A. R. I., Calcutta be entrusted to the Foreman Training Institute at Bangalore which has been conducting programmes in areas relating to supervisory development.

3. The matter was under consideration of the Central Government when a communication was received from the State Government of West Bengal expressing its opposition to this recommendation of the Committee of Experts. Taking into account the views of the State Government and other relevant factors, it has been decided that the two Wings of the C.S.T.A.R.I., Calcutta be not shifted to Kanpur and Bangalore as stated above and the said Institute may continue to function at Calcutta in its existing form. The State Government has also been informed of this decision of the Central Government.

Sale of Spare Parts of Centurian Tanks

*130. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:

SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently disposed of spare parts of Centurian tanks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the buyer of the spare parts was given the option of selecting the spares as a result of which a large quantity of spare parts has been left as a scrap;

(c) if so, the amount for which the spares of Centurian tanks have been sold as against their book value;

(d) whether Government had considered the possibility of retrieving the tanks with the spare available; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons which weighed with the Government to give an option to the buyer to select the spares?

THE PRIME MINISTER SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the Indian Army has phased out Centurian Tanks from the Indian Defence System, quantity of about 5,000 tonnes of Centurian spare parts became surplus to requirements and were available for disposal. The question of retrieving the tanks with these spares did not therefore arise. The book value representing the purchase price of these spares was Rs. 640 crores. But the parts have become obsolete after 30 years in storage and were not required for Defence purposes, they would have only scrap value within the country.

In order to secure a higher price, offers were invited for their sale abroad. Only one party made a valid offer fulfilling the conditions laid down. This offer was for the purchase of entire quantity of 5,000 tonnes for 900,000 dollars. The offer was further negotiated with the party by a high level inter-disciplinary committee with a view to seeking a better price. Eventually the buyer agreed to increase his offer to 1.1 million dollars for the entire quantity of about 5,000 tonnes.

It was observed that about 2,000 tonnes out of the total quantity were being purchased only for scrap and it was felt that this could as well be used for the same purpose within India. Finally, it was decided to sell the balance quantity of 3,000 tonnes at 0.9 million dollars (about Rs. 70,00,000). In the result, the price offered for the total quantity of 5,000 tonnes, only

3,000 tonnes were sold at a price much higher than the price of scrap in the domestic market.

Representation of Farmers on Planning Bodies

*131. **SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a separate cell for hilly areas in the Planning Commission;

(b) whether Government contemplate to involve farmers from each region of hilly States having first hand knowledge and practical experience about the problems of farming in the hilly areas on the planning bodies at the Central and State levels with a view to make the planning for hilly and snowy regions more practical and result-oriented;

(c) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Hill area planning is essentially a regional planning activity at the State-level. The Central Government only provides special Central Assistance to supplement the flow of funds from the State Plan resources as well as broad guidance as to Plan strategy and priorities. It is for the concerned State governments to consider the question of the involvement of farmers from the local region and to provide for it at an appropriate level in an appropriate manner.

Financial Resources for Manufacture of Safety Razor Blades

*132. **SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is considered necessary that financial resources be made