

applications and pensions have been sanctioned.

The word 'pending' is mentioned here. That means, the review petitions and not the original petitions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The hon. Minister is not stating the fact. These are original petitions. You have to admit our privilege motion in this regard because what he is saying is totally incorrect.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the persons who took part in the Goa liberation movement have been recognised as freedom fighters by the Central Government. The Maharashtra Government has also decided to give them the pension and other facilities being given to the freedom fighters. If these cases are referred to the Central Government will these Cases be considered ?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Since records of several persons of the Goa freedom fighters were not available, some of the cases have been decided suo-motu and those fit in our criterion have been granted pensions.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Maharashtra Government has already checked it.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Maharashtra Government and the Central Government have separate norms in this regard. We will accept those cases which fit in our norms....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: I want to know whether there is a proposal to enhance the pension for free-

dom fighters and the details thereof. I also want to know whether the revised rates are applicable to all types or categories of freedom fighters covered under the Central scheme automatically and uniformly, including, freedom fighters for liberating Goa and details thereof.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pension was increased just last year. There is no proposal to increase pension at present.

[*English*]

SHRI B.N. REDDY: While on the recommendations of the border camps, thousands of bogus cases have been sanctioned but genuine cases pertaining to the battlefields have not been sanctioned so far. So, I want to know whether any inquiry will be instituted to give justice to the genuine cases.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: There is hardly any case for me to enquire.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Fire in New Kenda Coal Mine

*44. DR. SAKSHIJI:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of miners died/injured

due to the recent fire accident in the New Kenda Coal Mine at Asansol under the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) the estimated loss as a result of fire;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the affected persons / families;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted regarding the causes of fire;

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(f) the action taken thereon; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA):

(a) 55 miners got trapped in New Kenda Colliery of ECL on 25th January, 1994. 37 bodies have been recovered till 16.2.1994.

(b) The estimated loss of revenue by way of coal production since 25.1.1994 till 16.2.1994 is Rs. 110.81 lakhs.

(c) Apart from paying terminal benefits, compensation payable under the workmen's Compensation Act amounting to Rs. 37.89 lakhs approximately in respect of all 55 victims has been deposited with the Compensation Commissioner upto 22-02-94. In addition, as on 22-02-94 the following benefits have been provided for each of the victims' dependents:

(i) Funeral expenses Rs. 2000/- } paid to nominees of all 55 victims

(ii) Ex-gratia Rs. 10,000/-

(iii) Special Ex-gratia Rs. 50,000/- } Paid to nominees of 34 victims. Rest to be paid when other nominees arrive from their native place.

(iv) Job to the widow or a dependent of the deceased worker, failing which, the widow has the option to draw pension of Rs. 3,000/ p.m., till she attains the age of 60 years } Offered to all who reported after cremation, now numbering 32.

(v) Transport facility at the cost of the company for the widow or the next of kin for taking the body to their place of choice for last rites. } Given to all who required.

(vi) Dependent children of deceased employees will be given free education with boarding and lodging upto the age of 18 years in any Rama Krishna Mission or Mother Teresa schools at the cost of ECL. Preliminary study made by Rama Krishna Mission Purulia.

(d) to (f). The Ministry of Labour has constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Mr. Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed, formerly Judge of the Calcutta High Court, to hold an inquiry into the accident.

(g) Apart from reiterating strict observance of the safety provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 by the coal companies, Govt. have ordered a safety Audit of all the coal Mines, giving first priority to the underground mines, to identify and remove deficiencies if any, in the safety aspects.