

Proposal to declare mediterranean as an area of Peace

6166. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yugoslav Prime Minister, Mr. Dzermal Bijedic and Smt. Indira Gandhi sponsored a proposal for declaring the Mediterranean an area of peace; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the declaration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The proposal for declaring the Mediterranean an area of peace is still in a preliminary stage. The matter is under consideration of the interested States of that area.

Persons injured and died at the time of clearing mines in Punjab Sector

6167. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI:
SHRI M. S. PURTY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have been injured or have lost their lives during the time of clearing the mines near Punjab sector in the border of Pakistan after the war;

(b) how many of them are civilians and how many of them are Army personnel; and

(c) whether any compensation were given to them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c). Sixty six Army personnel were injured and four lost their lives whilst clearing mines in the Punjab sector after the war. Army personnel injured are allowed extra pensionary benefits. The next of kin of Army

personnel who are killed in such circumstances are also allowed extra pensionary benefits. Civilians are not used for mine clearing operations.

Setting up Defence Based Industries

6168. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been received by the Government regarding the setting up of Defence based industries in the border States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, Government's decision on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. We have had requests in the past from all these States.

(b) The location of Defence projects is decided in each case on full consideration of all relevant factors including strategic and techno-economic considerations of the project. Claims of all these States were duly examined while finalising the location of various defence projects.

Running of a Military Special Train between New Delhi and Jammu

6169. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has received a suggestion to persuade the Railway authorities to start a daily military special train between New Delhi and Jammu, for the convenience of the Military personnel hailing from the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana; and