

Plants. In view of these measures, the response to the NPBD in Orissa during 1984-85 has been encouraging.

(c) and (d). To assess the operational efficiency of family based biogas plants installed in different States including Orissa, evaluation survey studies have been sanctioned. The evaluation survey study in Orissa is in progress. Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency is responsible for providing post-installation services for biogas plants and ensuring full utilisation.

Antarctica Study Centre

5553 DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2386 on the 10 April 1985 regarding the Antarctica Study Centre for Research Activities and state :

(a) whether some of the equipments required for the Centre are to be imported;

(b) whether more sophisticated and well-equipped ship better than m. v. Fin Polaris has been developed for such purpose by a shipyard in West Germany; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and details of availability of ships for such expenditure, in shipyards located in West Germany and further action taken on the fabrication of an ice-breaker ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The details of equipment for the Antarctica Study Centre are yet to be finalised.

(b) Since the name of the ship or the shipyard in West Germany has not been specified, it is not possible to furnish reply to this part of the Question.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, question does not arise.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

5554. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of the HOME AFFAIRS

be pleased to state :

(a) whether two scales of pension Rs. 300/- and Rs. 500/- p.m. are being paid under the 1972 scheme to Freedom Fighters and ex-INA personnel;

(b) if so, the basis for such discrimination;

(c) whether the non-official Advisory Committee of his Ministry, at its meeting of 21 July, 1984, had recommended that a uniform rate of Rs. 500/- p.m. should be sanctioned;

(d) If so, Government's reaction in the matter; and

(e) what other concessions are granted to Freedom Fighters and ex-INA personnel besides pensions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). At present the amount of pension under the Swatantrata Sainak Samman Pension scheme, 1980 in respect of the living freedom fighters (including the ex-INA personnel) is Rs. 300/- p.m. Pension at enhanced rate of Rs. 500/- p.m. is, however, sanctioned under certain conditions to freedom fighter who had been in jail for five years or more.

(c) and (d). The Government have accepted the recommendation of the Non-Official Advisory Committee made in the meeting held on 21.7.84 to raise the quantum of Samman Pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme to Rs. 500/- p.m. with effect from 1.6.1985.

(e) Most of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are providing free medical facilities to freedom fighters and their dependents, educational facilities to their children in the form of scholarships, books, cash grants and reservation in the medical and technical institutions. Some of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also giving priority to freedom fighters in allotment of land, housing boards tenements and fair price shops etc.