

zealand Government to foster a closer relationship with India, we may look forward to a betterment of our relations with New Zealand.

Airport at Pondicherry

5640. Dr. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Union Territory of Pondicherry is without an Airport;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to construct one Airport there; and

(c) if so, when it will be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no immediate plans to construct an airport in Pondicherry.

(d) Does not arise.

Maintenance of CRs of Government Servants

5641. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the instructions in respect of maintenance of Character Rolls or Confidential Reports of the Government servants; and

(b) whether any instances of misuse of power by higher officers, in writing Confidential Reports of their subordinate officers have come to the notice of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K P. SINGH DEO) : (a) A review of the Performance Appraisal System has been taken on hand by Government.

(b) With a view to minimising the operation of subjective human element and of conscious bias, the instructions relating to preparation and

evaluation of Confidential Reports provide for assessment at two levels. Further, adverse remarks if any, have also to be communicated to the Government servant concerned to afford him an opportunity of representing against them. In view of these built-in safeguards in the procedures, there is little scope for misuse of power in writing Confidential Reports.

Settlement of Cases of Freedom Fighters from Tamil Nadu

5612. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications for freedom fighters' pension are pending with the Freedom Fighters' Division of the Ministry for a long time and in some cases, for several years;

(b) whether such pending cases include cases where the State Government concerned has sanctioned State Government pension and has recommended grant of Central Government Freedom Fighters' pension;

(c) the number of applications/cases from the State of Tamil Nadu falling under (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix a time-limit for passing final orders in each pending case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Out of a total of 430,415 applications received so far both under the 1972 and 1980 Schemes, pension has been sanctioned to 132,859 freedom fighters and their dependents as on 31-3-1985. 191,187 cases have been rejected and 106,368 cases are pending mainly for want of verification reports from the State Governments.

(b) The grant of pension under the State Scheme does not automatically constitute eligibility for Central Pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme as the criteria of eligibility under the State Scheme and the Central Scheme are quite different. However, a few of the cases recommended by various State Governments are under consideration.

(c) 374 cases are pending for want of verification reports from the Government of Tamil Nadu, out of which 17 cases in which reports of the State Government have been received are under consideration of the Governments.

(d) As the cases are finalised on the basis of the verification reports of the concerned State Governments, it is not possible to fix a deadline for settlement of all the applications. Every effort is, however, being made for speedy disposal of the pending applications. The following steps have been taken for their expeditious settlement :

- (i) On instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the State Governments have set up Special Cells to deal with the applications.
- (ii) The State Governments on advice of the Central Government have also set up Committee at District/ State level to advise for verification and scrutiny of claims.
- (iii) The Government have also set up a Non-Official Advisory Committee at Central level to consider major problems in implementation of Samman Pension Scheme and to tender advice to Government.

**Provision in SGPC Budget for Training
in Arms at Sikh Shrines**

5643. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :
SHRI SHANTARAM

POTDUKHE :

SHRI LAKSHMAN

MALLICK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have information about the provisions made in the 1985-86 budget of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) for special arrangements for training in arms at some sikh shrines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for such training during 1984-85;

(d) the nature of training proposed to be imparted in the Sikh shrines;

(e) the names of shrines proposed to be used for such training; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (f) According to the available information, the SGPC has provided Rs. 2.50 lakhs in the budget estimate for 1985-86 and had provided Rs. 35,000/- for 1984-85 for imparting 'Shashtar Vidya' to be organised in the following Sikh Shrines :

1. Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar.
2. Gurdwara Dukh Niwaran Sahib, Patiala.
3. Sri Darbar Sahib, Taran Tarn.
4. Gurdwara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, Sirhind
5. Gurdwara Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, Jind.
6. Sri Darbar Sahib, Muktsar.
7. Gurdwara Sri Ber Sahib Sultanpur Lodhi, Kapurthala.
8. Gurdwara Baba Gandha Singh, Barnala.
9. Gurdwara Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, Dhamtan Sahib.
10. Takhat Sri Dam Dama Sahib, Talwandi.
11. Takhat Sri Keshgarh Sahib Anandpur Sahib

(2) The authorities are vigilant and are keeping a close watch in the matter. Suitable action will be taken against these found indulging in unlawful activities.

**Funds for SC/ST Programmes During
1985-86**

5644. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Plan for the year 1985-86 provides Rs. 207 crores for various programmes benefiting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;