

sentations received by the Government of India, it has been decided to produce the minimum period of imprisonment of the 'certifying freedom fighter' from 5 yrs. to 2 yrs. such certificates are, however, acceptable only when the area of operation i.e. district, of the certifier during the freedom struggle was the same as that of the applicant. This relaxation (reduction of the imprisonment of the certifier to 2 years) has been made effective from 1st August, 1980. No other relaxation in this regard is under contemplation of the Government.

**Safety Sea Zone for Ignition Tests
at Thumba Space Centre**

235. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the space centre at Thumba in Kerala, when ignition tests are conducted from the coast, fishing boats are occasionally found rowing unsafely in the sea in the vicinity of these tests ;

(b) if so, whether Government would declare a definite area in the sea in the vicinity of the ignition tests as 'Prohibited' area to ensure safety ; and

(c) if so, within what period such a prohibition will be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). When Rocket Launchings are conducted from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) Thumba in Kerala, a standard procedure is followed for clearing the ships, fishing boats, etc. from the danger zone of specific area, depending upon the type of rocket. This procedure was evolved based on the understanding with Agencies such as Director General of Civil Aviation, Director General of Shipping etc. A Memorandum is sent to all the concerned Agencies, ten days before the launch date, and, based on this, the Mercantile Marine Department broadcasts the danger area warning atleast two to three times a day till the date of launching. The fishermen are also alerted by the State Fisheries and Revenue Departments. Further, a Patrol

boat of ISRO also surveys the danger zone prior to launch to clear all fishing boats, etc. from the danger zone.

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of Illegal Arms in U.P.

236. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal arms are being manufactured on a large scale in Varanasi district and eastern districts of U.P. ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any stringent action so far in this regard ;

(c) whether some arrests have also been made in this regard ; and

(d) if no arrests have been made, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Shortage of Trained Personnel for North-Eastern Region

238. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether shortage of personnel with good training in North-Eastern region is creating serious problems of management and slowing down of development ;

(b) whether Government have any plans for advanced manpower development programmes ;

(c) if so, details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to fill any gaps ; and

(d) whether Government will review the situation for North Eastern region and all other traditionally backward region/groups ?