

Raids on Houses of Officers

5962. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officials whose houses were raided during the last two months with a view to rooting out corruption in the country; and

(b) the action taken against each one of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During January, 1986 and February, 1986, 62 searches were conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation in residential/office premises of 42 Government officials in connection with the investigation of 32 cases registered by them on various allegations like possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of their income, cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct etc. Out of 32 cases, investigations in two cases have been finalised and chargesheets have been filed in court. Investigation in the remaining cases is in progress.

Firing on Indian Trawlers by Coast Guards

5963. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any information regarding Coast Guard opening fire of Indian trawlers on the East Coast in February, 1986;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(c) the full details of this incident; and

(d) the action taken to ensure that Coast Guards do not harass our fishing boats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There was an incident of firing by the Coast Guard Ship 'Ramadevi' on an Indian trawler

(YSF-101) belonging to Yamuna Sea Food (Pvt.) Ltd., on 15.2.1986 at approximately 2200 hrs., off Paradip.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) CG Ship 'Ramadevi' under orders to locate and apprehend Thai trawlers engaged in illegal fishing had, on sighting the Indian trawler (YSF-101) on 15.2.1986, tried to intercept it for inspection. Having failed in establishing a communication link on VHF (Channel-16) with the trawler, attempts were made by Ramadevi with the help of search lights and loud hailers, to stop the trawler. However the trawler responded by increasing its speed and changing its course. This suspicious manoeuvre resulted in the Commanding Officer of CGS 'Ramadevi' ordering the firing of some 'warning shots' at a distance from the trawler. It appears that a few shrapnel/rounds of ammunition from the 'warning shots' hit the trawler.

(d) On the basis of the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry, it is proposed :

(i) To amplify the existing instructions on the use of force and fire arms by Coast Guard ships, particularly against fishing trawlers of Indian registration.

(ii) To hold periodical meetings between Coast Guard authorities and the Indian Fishermen Association to discuss aspects of mutual interest to avoid the recurrence of such incidents. One such meeting has already been held on 20.3.1986 at Vishakhapatnam.

Proposal to set up International Centre for Science and Technology

5964. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an International Centre for Science and Technology; and

(b) if so, the details of its aims and objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-