

**Merger of para-military forces**

5630. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to merge fifteen odd para-military forces of country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Each para-military force has been raised by the Government for performing a different type of role. In view of this, there is no proposal with the Government to merge various para-military forces.

(b) Does not arise.

**Scholarships to countries of S.A.D.C.C.**

5631. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has offered a number of scholarships to countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference;

(b) if so, the countries which will be offered these scholarships;

(c) whether any communications from these South African countries accepting the scholarships have been received; and

(d) if so, the total scholarships which will be offered to these African countries during the year 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes. An offer of 300 professional training fellowships has been made to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) secretariat under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme.

(b) The SADCC members—Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

(c) No formal communication has been received, but oral acceptance has been conveyed.

(d) The allocation of 300 training fellowships has been made for utilisation over a five year period. Separately, India also allots a specific number of training fellowships annually under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme to each of the SADCC member—countries on a bilateral basis.

**Support price of cotton**

5632. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have announced an increase of Rs. 10/- per quintal in the support price of cotton but have directed the Maharashtra Government not to permit the Maharashtra Cotton Federation to make payment of price at the rate of Rs. 612/- per quintal to the cotton growers;

(b) if so, whether this Central directive has created a grave discontentment among the cotton growers of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to review their directive to the Maharashtra Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIVAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The Union Government announced on 3rd March, 1987 the Minimum Support Prices for different varieties of cotton for the

ensuing cotton season 1987-88 in advance of the sowing season with a view to enabling the farmers to take rational decision on their cropping plans. There is an average increase of Rs. ten per quintal over the corresponding price being paid during the current cotton year.

Under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme being in operation in the State of Maharashtra, the farmers are paid guaranteed prices which are the same as Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government of India for different varieties of cotton. There is no proposal to review the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

**Cooperative spinning mill in Balasore  
(Orissa)**

5633. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a letter of intent has been issued for establishment of a cooperative spinning mill in 'No-industry' district of Balasore in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation of the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Orissa Government have stated that the loan application of the mill company has been turned down by the Industrial Development Bank of India on the ground that excess spinning capacity has already been created in the country.

**Free port status to Port Blair**

5634. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Port Blair as a free port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Some suggestions have been received for a free port to be developed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. No decision has been taken in the matter.

12.00 hrs.

**RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE ETC.**

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, I have given notice of a privilege motion...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I have given notice under Rule 184... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the whole affair.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : Sir...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him make his statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you so incorrigible all the time? One minute. I have allowed the Minister to make his statement.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want your ruling...

MR. SPEAKER : My ruling is simple and straight...