

The projects sanctioned to various voluntary organisations are at different stages of implementation.

(c) and (d). A review of the scheme was made in 1988 and it was decided to modify the programme by including training of social animators and social organisers in rural areas. The objective is to identify persons with leadership qualities for organisation of groups and to increase awareness of the groups which could lead to their empowerment.

Freedom Fighters Pension

4587. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to grant pensions to the freedom fighters who remained underground avoiding arrest warrants for participating in the Quit India Movement;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have been granted pension under this category;

(c) whether there are some pending applications also in this category; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken to expedite them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No separate statistics are maintained in this regard.

(c) and (d). As stated above, no separate statistics are maintained claimwise. However, there are 30 cases received before the prescribed last date i.e. 31.3.1982 pending in which State Governments' re-

ports are awaited. The State Governments are being reminded periodically.

Assent to Karnataka Education Bill, 1983

4588. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Education Bill, 1983 passed by the State Legislature and sent for obtaining the assent of the President has received his assent;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The issues involved in the Bill are engaging the attention of the Central Government in consultation with the State Government. The concerned Central Ministry is awaiting revised proposal about the Bill from the State Government.

Market Loans for Telecommunications

4589. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has decided not to go in for further market loans for telecommunications;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the modus operandi of financing the expansion plans thereof; and

(c) the total market borrowing at present and the interest liability thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN): (a)