

Government have received a few representations on the amendments. No further changes are envisaged in the Policy at present.

Loss of Lives at Pune Based Armament Research and Development Establishment

919. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI RAM SAGAR:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Scientists lost their lives while conducting routine tests at Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment during September, 1992;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any enquiry in this matter;

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such cases in future; and

(e) the financial assistance being given to the next of kin of these scientists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Two Scientists lost their lives while conducting experimental firing trials.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The enquiry report has brought out that safety precautions laid down for such

experimental firing had been observed and the probable cause of the accident was premature functioning of the detonator.

(d) All safety aspects of the experimental firings of explosive related stores have been reviewed with a view to enforce stringent safety measures to avoid recurrence of such accidents.

(e) Rs. 22000/- each have been paid to the next of kin of the deceased from the voluntary contribution and non-public funds. Employment on compassionate ground is also being given to one family member of each deceased. This in addition to their entitlement for group insurance, leave encashment, gratuity, GPF, deposit linked insurance and family pension.

[Translation]

Opening of UTI Branches

920. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open branches of the Unit Trust of India in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The Unit Trust of India proposes to open 100 branches before June, 1993 at Trivandrum in Kerala and Siliguri in West Bengal.