

under the Negotiable Instrument Act. The holiday on 14.11.1988 was not declared under the above Act and, hence, was not applicable to these offices.

[English]

Compassionate Employment In Defence Headquarters

904. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases for compassionate employment pending action/finalisation in the Defence Headquarters and since when are these pending, with reasons for the delay;

(b) the details of steps taken to provide employment to these cases;

(c) the details of steps taken to check and minimise the delay in the grant of compassionate employment;

(d) the details of the criteria laid down in this regard and whether these are in tune with the Government orders etc.; and

(e) if not, the details of steps taken to correct the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Only nine cases, of recent origin, relating to compassionate employment of the family members/dependents of civilian employees of Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter Service Organisations are pending finalisation. There has been no delay in their finalisation as the earliest case received in the office, complete in all respects pertains to end December, 1989. In addition,

four more cases of compassionate employment have been received but the department is unable to process these cases for want of complete information from the applicants.

(b) These nine cases will now be considered by a duly constituted Board of Officers, who will make their recommendations to the competent authority after analysing each case in the light of the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training on the subject. After the decision of the competent authority is taken in each case, appointment will be offered to the person concerned after verification of their character and antecedents and medical examination, on availability of a suitable vacancy.

(c) to (e). There has been no delay in finalisation of the cases because the meeting of the Board of Officers is held regularly once in every quarter. The criteria adopted for compassionate employment is strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training on this subject.

Ganga Action Plan

905. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated outlay involved on the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) whether any evaluation of this plan has been made so far; if so, its findings; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure the closure of such Industries on the river banks which release pollutants and effluents and disagree to the setting up of effluent treatment control plants—Statewise—though which this river passes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Under the present phase of the Ganga Action Plan, 262 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 278.62 crores have been sanctioned for the three States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. Taking into account the expenditure on the Ganga Project Directorate establishment, research projects, operation and maintenance, and cost escalations on the schemes that is likely, the total outlay is expected to be of the order of Rs. 350 crores.

(b) the monitoring of the progress of the Ganga Action Plan is carried out periodically by a Monitoring Committee which has suggested greater scientific inputs, resource recovery and public participation.

(c) Sixty eight industries on the banks of River Ganga were identified as gross polluters by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Of these 37 units have set up effluent treatment plants (ETPs) to treat their effluents, ETPs are under construction in 11 more units and 10 units have closed down. The other 10 units have either not responded or are delaying action. Action taken in their regard is given below, Statewise.

	UP	Bihar	West Bengal	Total
1. Legal action being taken	4	1	4	9
2. Extension of time granted for submitting a time-bound programme	—	—	1	1

Development Works in Ambala Cantonment Area

906. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any development works in the Ambala Cantonment Area (Haryana) have been carried out during the tenure of the present President of Cantonment Board, Ambala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Since February '89, when the present President took over, Rs. 0.47 lakhs have been spent on original and miscellaneous works upto February, 1990 during the current financial year.

An expenditure of Rs. 12.10 lakhs was incurred during the same period on works which are under execution. Details are not maintained at the Centre.

[*Translation*]

Denudation of Forests

907. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total land area which has become barren in the country due to denudation of forests;

(b) whether Government propose to check indiscriminate denudation of forests; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?