

(b) the number of applications pending with the Ministry as on 1 November, 1985 with the year-wise break up showing the number of applications received from the State Governments during the last two years with their recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of freedom fighters and the dependents of deceased freedom fighters who have been sanctioned Samman Pension during the Years 1984 and 1985 (upto 31st October, 1985) is 4240 and 4237 respectively.

(b) The number of pending applications as on 1st November, 1985 is 85,293. Since last date of receipt of applications was 31.3.1982 now we are receiving the verification reports from State Governments. The number of verification reports received from State Governments during 1984 and 1985 (upto 31.10.85) is 18,124 and 29,557 respectively. Most of these reports have been disposed of.

International Task Force Report on Tropical Forests

2452. SHRI CHINTAMANI

PANIGRAHI :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an International Task Force report which has placed India among the 56 critical countries having serious destruction of tropical forests.

(b) if so, the recommendations made to expand the social forestry programme, to intensify efforts to initiate tree farming on degraded forest lands and agricultural wastelands, to give strong support to multipurpose farm forestry particularly involving the landless in tree crop farming and also strengthen forestry extension and research, concentrating research on technologies that can help improve bio-mass productivity; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take or have already taken to achieve the desired results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have set up a National Wastelands Development Board with the object of bringing five million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation. A people's movement for afforestation is being developed. The efforts cover degraded forest land and agricultural wasteland and aim at involving the landless in tree crop farming. Forestry extension and research aiming at higher bio-mass productivity would also receive attention.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board have drawn up a strategy and have issued guidelines for action to the State/UTs and the matter is being pursued with a view to achieve an annual afforestation of five million hectares as early as possible.

Manufacturing and price policy of Indian V.C.R.

2453. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert team from the Department of Electronics visited Japan, and Europe to study the possibility of having collaborations with in companies in these countries for the manufacture of V.C.R.;

(b) what are the conditions set for the collaboration;

(c) whether the manufacture of V.C.R. will be in the public sector or private sector or joint sector; and

(d) what is the likely price of the Indian V.C.R. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T) in consultation with Department of Electronics sent a team to visit Japan and Europe.

(b) No collaboration agreement has yet been signed.

(c) As per the present policy, manufacture of V.C.R. is open to all sectors.

(d) It is difficult to estimate at this stage.

Pollution Control

2454. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government feel that the statutory provisions and the administrative machinery at present have proved to be inadequate in controlling pollution in the country; and

(b) if so, the special steps being taken to effectively check pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) There is need to strengthen the statutory provisions and the administrative machinery to control pollution in the country.

(b) Based on experience gained, amendments to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act are contemplated. The infrastructural facilities available with the Pollution Control Boards have been reviewed and the State Governments asked to take necessary action for strengthening the facilities required for effective functioning of the State Boards.

Pattern and composition of State Cadres of IPS

2455. SHRI BHOLANATH SEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the contemplation of Government with regard to the pattern and composition of the State Cadres of the Indian Police Service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : The Government of India have constituted a Committee consisting of Secretary, Ministry

of Personnel & Trg., Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pensions as Chairman and Union Home Secretary, Secretary (Deptt. of Forests and Wild Life, Ministry of Environment and Forests), Secretary (Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance) and Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Assam as Members. This Committee would examine, among other things, the question of laying down appropriate norms for fixation of cadre strength of State/Joint Cadres of the three All India Services, namely IAS, IPS, & IFS. The above Committee has been constituted in the light of the observations made by the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha in its 77th Report.

Ganga Purification Project

2456. SHRI D.N. REDDY :
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the extent of work done in the "Ganga Purification Project" till now, and expenditure thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (i) Central Ganga Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and a Steering Committee have been constituted for control, guidance and superintendence.

(ii) Ganga Project Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been set up to receive appraise, sanction schemes and release funds, coordinate implementation and monitor progress of the Schemes.

(iii) Nodal Departments have been identified in the three States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal and agencies designated for implementation of Schemes.

(iv) A programme of works estimated to cost Rs. 292.31 crores has been received from the three State Governments of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal and has been approved by Central Ganga Authority :