

conservation and integrated development of the Islands.

For the tribal population of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Tribal Sub-Plan has been formulated, which takes care of their developmental and welfare needs. An Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Lt. Governor looks specifically into the development of primitive tribes. The tribal population of the Islands rose from 18,102 in 1971 to 22,261 in 1981.

#### Setting up on an Ordnance Factory in Himachal Pradesh

514. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the demand of the Himachal Pradesh Government and the representatives of the people from the State for the setting up of an Ordnance Factory in the State;

(b) if so, the decision of Government and the likely date by which the factory would be set up ; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) : Requests were received in the past from the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and a few MPs and MLAs for setting up an ordnance factory in the State. They have been informed that while there was no proposal to locate and Ordnance Factory in Himachal Pradesh, the request had been noted and would be given due consideration as and when an occasion arose.

Location of ordnance factories is decided on strategic and technoeconomic considerations. It would not, therefore, be possible to indicate the time by which an Ordnance Factory would be set up in Himachal Pradesh.

#### Removal of Disparity in the Pension Rates of Ex-Servicemen

515. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the strong demand by ex-servicemen regarding the removal of disparity in the pension rates to those who retired prior to 1 January, 1972 as compared to their counterparts who retired later ;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government on this demand and the nature of decision ; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken in this regard and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Government is aware of the demand of ex-servicemen for removal of "disparity" in pension. There is no disparity in the application of pension formula to the various categories of ex-servicemen. However; as pension is, *inter alia*, related to reckonable emoluments which have undergone change from time to time, the amounts of pension actually drawn by persons retiring at different points of time, naturally vary.

Government have taken steps from time to time with a view to mitigate the financial hardship of old pensioners, such as, grant of temporary increase, *ad hoc* increase and *ad hoc* relief to pre-1973 pensioners, depending on their date of retirement, and raising of minimum retiring pension (including relief) to Rs. 160 per month with effect from 1.4 1983. Recently, Government also sanctioned *ad hoc* ex-gratia payments ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 75 per month from 1st September 1984 to certain categories of pre-1973 armed forces pensioners. The Fourth Pay Commission is now examining the pension structure of both past and future pensioners.

#### Crossing over of Assassins of First Secretary of Kuwaiti Embassy to Pak

516. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the two alleged assassins of the First Secretary in the Kuwaiti Embassy in New Delhi had crossed into Pakistan ; and