

(a) whether Government have made any change in the rules relating to issue of prisoner or absconder certificate to the persons who apply for Swatantrata Sainik Samman (freedom fighter) pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn the right of issuing such certificates from some freedom fighters of Bihar;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Under the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme, 1972 a freedom fighter claiming underground suffering against arrest warrant was required to produce documentary evidence from official records such as court documents or executive orders proclaiming him an offender etc. A relaxation in this regard was made under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme effective from 1.8.1980 to the extent that in case the official records are not available, a freedom fighter may furnish a certificate from the personal knowledge of a prominent freedom fighter who himself has undergone imprisonment for not less than 5 years, which has since been reduced to 2 years in support of his suffering. Certificates issued by competent certifiers are however, acceptable only if the area of operation *i.e.* district of the certifier and that of the applicant during the freedom struggle was the same.

2. In regard to claims based on jail suffering, the Government have decided that in case the official records are not available, certificates of co-prisonership from any two Central Pension holders who have undergone imprisonment for not less than one year in connection with freedom struggle and are recipients of Tamrapatras will be acceptable. Under the 1972 Scheme, such co-prisoner certificates were acceptable only from sitting or former legislators.

(c) to (e). Complaints were received that a few certifiers from some States had

given certificates of abscondence or co-prisonership indiscriminately. On discreet inquiry, it was found that some of them had given certificates to a number of such persons who do not appear to have taken part in the freedom struggle. The Government have, therefore, decided that the certificates issued by such certifiers should not be relied upon for the grant of Samman Pension.

#### Funds for Development of Dal Lake, Srinagar

4909. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government will declare the Dal Lake in Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir State) as a National Asset and provide funds for its development to save it from pollution and extinction;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to declare the Dal Lake as a National Asset. The State Government has prepared a scheme at a total cost of Rs. 64.00 crores spread over three phases. According to the State Government, the work on Phase-I was started in 1978 and on Phase II in 1983-84, but the progress has been slow due to paucity of funds. The State Government has prepared a proposal for seeking financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

#### Colour TV Sets

4910. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) steps taken or to be taken to improve the quality of colour TV sets; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to remove restrictions for their import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF