

detection and suppression of forest fires. The experience gained from the project will be made available to other States for guidance and use.

(c) The Government policy in regard to development of forests in the country is protection and augmentation of forest resources and assistance given to the State Governments include afforestation; protection of forests from illegal felling, fire and grazing; training; research; conservation of wildlife and forest eco-systems.

Guidelines Issued by MSTC Regarding Allotment of Ships for Ship-Breaking at Calcutta

2394. SHRI R.P. DAS :
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) has issued guidelines for allotment of ships to ship-breaking units in April, 1988 ;

(b) whether according to these guidelines further allotment of old ships to Calcutta Port for ship-breaking has been denied ;

(c) if so, whether consequently 14 ship-breaking units of Calcutta will be out of business resulting in loss of jobs to a large number of ancillary unit workers ;

(d) whether Union Government propose to reconsider the situation and withdraw the said directives/guidelines ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). MSTC's guidelines for allotment of old imported ships to ship breaking units for 1988-89 do not envisage supply of these ships to units registered at Calcutta. This policy is continuing since 1986-87.

(c) Though supply of imported ships to ship-breaking units at Calcutta is not made by MSTC they undertake breaking of Indian flag Vessels and vessels sold by the Port

Trust and under Court orders. Hence there is no question of ship-breaking units at Calcutta going out of business or workers losing their jobs.

(d) and (e). No reconsideration of the policy of allotment of imported ships to ship-breaking units of Calcutta is necessary as Indian Flag Vessels and vessels sold by Port Trusts and under Court orders are sufficient to sustain the ship-breaking activities at Calcutta.

Recognition of "Pahari" Language

2395. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received a demand to recognise the regional language 'Pahari' of Himachal Pradesh by the Sahitya Akademi and the Union Government ;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon and the time by which 'Pahari' language will be given recognition ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for promotion and development of all the regional languages including 'Pahari' in which literary works are being created on large scale and the number of persons speaking each of these regional languages is more than ten lakh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. It has been in respect of inclusion of Pahari language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and recognition of this language by the Sahitya Akademi.

(b) As regards inclusion of Pahari language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, a reply has been sent stating that it is the endeavour of Government to promote cultural and literary heritage of all the languages irrespective of their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. Regarding recognition of Pahari Language by the Sahitya Akademi, a reply has been sent intimating the criteria laid down by the Sahitya Akademi for recognition of languages.

(c) The Sahitya Akademi has pro-