

Industry (CEI), New Delhi in cooperation with Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI), organised a first-ever Indian engineering exhibition in Moscow between 1—7 July, 1988. The purpose of this exhibition was to project areas of trade, production, technological and industrial cooperation between the Soviet Union and India. Coinciding with the trade fair, CEI in cooperation with Soviet authorities organised seminars on Machine building, Electronics and information technology and industrial cooperation. It is difficult to gauge the outcome of such seminars on short-term basis. Department of Electronics, Government of India has made sufficient ground work for future development in the area of electronics and it is expected that the work done by two sides would result in further development of technology and business cooperation between the two countries.

Increase in Freedom Fighters Pension

158. SHRI ARVIND TULSHI KAMBLE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the pension amount of freedom fighters in near future ;

(b) if so, what will be the amount of increase ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide more facilities to the freedom fighters ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). No decision to any such proposal has so far been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d). It has been decided to extend the period of validity of free railway passes to freedom fighters by one more year.

Freedom Fighters Pension Applications from Kerala

159. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications for

freedom fighters pension from Kerala pending for disposal ;

(b) since when these cases are pending ; and

(c) by what time these applications are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). Out of 30089 applications (excluding ex-INA cases) received from the State of Kerala within the prescribed time limit, pension has been sanctioned in 2552 cases (excluding ex-INA cases) and the remaining cases have been rejected. In one case received through the Government of Kerala in December, 1985, certain clarifications have been sought from the State Government. This case will be finalised on receipt of the State Government's clarification.

CSIR Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal

160. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to close down the Regional Research Laboratory of CSIR at Bhopal ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of scientists and other staff members likely to be affected with its closure ; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to safeguard their interests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No, Sir. The CSIR Society has directed CSIR to explore the possibility of taking over of the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhopal, by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Inclusion of Developing Languages as Subjects in UPSC Examination

161. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER