

main thrust of R & D work in this area is to develop low cost solar photovoltaic cells with reasonable efficiency.

- (vii) A solar energised desalination pilot plant of 1000 litres per day capacity for obtaining potable water from sea water was developed by the Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute, Bhavnagar. Based on the performance of this pilot plant, the Institute has recently commissioned a 5000 litres per day capacity plant at village Awania in Gujarat and plants of larger capacities are under construction in Rajasthan.

Cadres of Police Force under the Ministry

2544. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the cadres of Police force functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the total annual expenditure incurred to maintain them ; and

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to improve living conditions of various cadres of its Police forces ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) :

(a) The following forces function under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs :—

- (i) Border Security Force.
- (ii) Central Reserve Police Force.
- (iii) Assam Rifles.
- (iv) Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force.
- (v) Central Industrial Security Force.

In each force, separate cadres are sanctioned at various levels according to requirement.

The total expenditure incurred on the above forces during 1977-78 was Rs. 19,55,344 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the benefits admissible to other Central Government employees, the personnel of these forces are entitled to concessions de-

pending on the areas and conditions of their deployment, such as :—

(i) Non-gazetted personnel are allowed rent-free accommodation at unit and battalion levels, including limited family accommodation. Construction programme have been taken up from year to year for providing additional family accommodation for personnel of these forces upto the prescribed percentages depending on the availability of funds. For example, Rs. 55 lakhs have been allotted to CRPF and about Rs. 95 lakhs to ITBP during 1978-79 for residential accommodation. When family accommodation is not available, the entitled personnel are allowed house rent allowance at enhanced rates.

(ii) In Assam Rifles and ITBP free ration is admissible to the non-gazetted personnel. A part of the cost of rations is also met by the Government in respect of such personnel in BSF and CRPF in certain areas of their deployment.

(iii) Free medical care is provided to the non-gazetted personnel and their families.

(iv) Every year Government gives grants-in-aid to these forces for reinforcing their welfare measures which include provision of schools and transport facility to school-going children at subsidised rates and also arranging training for family members of the personnel in tailoring, knitting and other useful jobs.

(v) Apart from normal leave travel concessions as available to other Central Government employees, the personnel of such forces are also allowed a free leave pass once a year when posted in difficult areas.

Palace of Ex-Maharaja of Kutch

2545. SHRI YADVENDRA DUIT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vijay Vilas Palace of the ex-Maharaja of Kutch has been taken for the use of the Indian Air Force ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, There has been no need for it.