

(d) Some of the steps taken by the High Court for ensuring better disposal of cases are: fixing matters for hearing by giving short returnable dates, dispensing with printing, expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts and grouping of matters arising from land acquisition cases.

(e) On 31-12-1978, 6 posts of Judges were vacant. Proposals for filling up 4 posts have been received and are being processed. Proposals in respect of the remaining 2 posts are still awaited from the concerned authorities.

**Theft Cases in Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath**

92. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have received a representation dated 28th April, 1978 regarding theft cases in Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath District, Thana (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, what action have Government taken in regard to the said representation; and

(c) if no decisive action has so far been taken, what are the reasons of delay; whether the responsibility has been fixed on the persons responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The complaint relates to alleged theft of some materials from Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath and irregularities in disposal of seized material by police authorities. Enquiries are being made to find out whether the material was stolen from the Factory. Disposal of seized material by auction by Police authorities concerns the State Government,

who are reported to be looking into this matter.

**Demand of M.E.S. Civilian Employees**

93. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4356 on 20th December, 1978 and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the other demands of MES Civilian Engineers' Association's resolution passed on 19th April, 1978; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Briefly, the other demands are:

(a) Revise the pay scales of Supdts. Gde. I from Rs. 550—750 to Rs. 550—900 with retrospective effect.

(b) Fill all the vacancies of Asstt. Engineer, Class II through departmental promotions from serving civilian Supdts. Gde. I only.

(c) Scrap the age limit for departmental candidates who wish to appear for the UPSC examination/interviews.

(d) The Government's decision of 22 February, 1978 to give time scale promotions to Central Government Employees whose promotional chances are remote, based on the Third Pay Commission's recommendations, must be made applicable to the engineer's cadre also.

(e) The ratio between Supdts. Gde. I and Gde. II shall be made 1:1 by increasing the vacancies of Supdts. Gde. I and resultant vacancies must be filled by promotion from Supdts. Gde. II.