

(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.

The position is as under:

(a) and (c). The demands are under consideration.

(b) The post of Charge-Holder, prior to its upgradation as Assistant Engineer, Class II, was being manned by the civilians and Military personnel in the ratio of 2 : 1. Even after the upgradation of the post, the Military element has to be adjusted against the upgraded posts of Assistant Engineers in the prescribed ratio. This demand of the Association cannot therefore be agreed to.

(d) The Government is not aware of any such decision.

(c) The posts of Supdts. Grade I and Grade II in the MES are sanctioned on functional basis and no ratio can be fixed. The number in each grade depends on the workload which varies from time to time. The adoption of the ratio of 1:1 is, therefore, not practicable.

Harassment for Supply of Coal to permit Holders

94. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that even after obtaining permits from District Magistrate or other authorities the permit holders sometime have to undergo much harassment and difficulties in getting supply of coal from the areas allotted against the permits and also get supply of inferior quality of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government will take step to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). Reports have occasionally been received regarding difficulties being experienced by permit holders in

securing the required quality of coal. In the past availability of certain superior grades of coal was below requirements. However since production is now normal such difficulties should not arise in coming months.

Relay Centre at Asansol

95. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up a T.V. Relay Centre at Asansol, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the time to be taken to complete it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up a 10 KW relay transmitter with a 150 metre tower at Asansol. It will relay programmes of the Calcutta TV Station, and will have a coverage area of 18,000 sq. kms. comprising 55.75 lakhs of rural and 11.60 lakhs of urban population. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 130 lakhs and is expected to be completed during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Inter-Corporate Investments

96. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inter-corporate investment is one of the principal weapons in the hands of the large business houses to keep and expand control over a large number of companies;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to regulate and restrict inter-corporate investments; and