

Information about the number of persons arrested under the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Clash between Harijans and Fishermen at Iskapalli, Nellore District

6089. SHRI PASALA PENCHALAI AH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were killed in clash between Harijans and Fishermen in an incident which occurred at Iskapalli of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many Harijans were killed in the incident;

(c) whether their families were given ex-gratia grants;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the element behind the clash and action taken by Government against those elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 10 persons were killed in a clash between Harijans and Fishermen and the resultant police firing in an incident that occurred at Iskapalli of Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh on 23rd May, 1980. Out of the 10 persons who were killed, 5 were Harijans.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Invention of Dr. Thankayyan of Medical College, Trivandrum

6090. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the inventions of Dr. Thankayyan of Medical College, Trivandrum;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would assess the said inventions of Dr. Thankayyan through a Commission appointed by the Central Government; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Central Government in this respect so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (c). National Research and Development Corporation of India has been receiving since 1974 requests for prize awards and financial assistance for inventions from Dr. Thankayyan of Medical College, Trivandrum. To encourage inventive talent NRDC which is the Central Public Sector Agency assigned responsibility for this area gives prize awards and financial assistance to individual inventors and those in scientific and industrial fields for meritorious inventions which can be proved to be workable, advantageous, useful and commercially viable. As per the procedure followed by NRDC the inventions are referred to experts in the field for an assessment, following which the matter is placed for consideration and decision before the prize Awards and Financial Assistance Committee. Financial assistance was extended to Dr. Thankayyan for one of his inventions in 1977. A sum of Rs. 2,000/- was released to him. Since adequate progress in work was not made no further amount has been paid to him. Recently, a brochure containing ten inventions (including for inventions received earlier) has been received from Dr. Thankayyan and these are being examined in consultation with the Indian Council of Medical Research.