

(b) if so, what action has been taken;

(c) whether any undue favour has been shown in this appointment;

(d) whether the Coir Board meeting held on 22nd November, 1979 commented on the working of the Liaison Officer;

(e) if so, what action is taken on these comments;

(f) whether proper publicity has been given at the time of recruitment to this senior post through press etc. as prescribed in the Coir Board recruitment by-laws; and

(g) if not, what action has been taken to book the person responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints were looked into by Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No Coir Board meeting was held on 22nd November, 1979. A special meeting was held on 24th November when some Members were critical about the functioning of the Liaison Officer and the Board had resolved that the present post of Liaison Officer should be upgraded. After careful consideration the Ministry of Industry decided that such upgradation was not warranted.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) According to the recruitment rules, the post was not required to be publicised through the press and hence it was not advertised in any newspaper.

(g) Does not arise.

Inquiry made against allegation of the Coir Board Chairman

2320. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been made into the allegations against the Chairman, Coir Board;

(b) if so, whether any *prima facie* case has been established; and

(c) whether action has been taken to book the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) to (c). A preliminary enquiry conducted into the allegations has established *prima facie* that the Chairman had incurred unauthorised expenditure during participation in a fair and had sometimes used the staff car of the Board for unauthorised purposes. Further action on the findings has been initiated.

Simplification of procedure re. Pension to Freedom Fighters

2321. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to simplify the procedure of grant of pensions to freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, the categories of freedom fighters being brought under the revised scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) The Freedom Fighter Pension Scheme has already been liberalised and the procedure simplified with effect from 1-8-1980. Announcements to that effect were made in both the Houses of Parliament in July, 1980.

(b) The liberalised pension scheme, *inter-alia* provides for:—

(a) removal of annual income ceiling for all categories of freedom fighters, thereby eliminating the requirement of verification of income.

(b) enhancement of pension from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- p.m. in respect of lying freedom fighters and from