

(b) whether any alternative measures has been suggested by Government;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the benefits of E.P. Funds Act to Beedi Workers and to fix a national minimum wages with suitable variable dearness allowance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The question of alternative source to finance the Beedi Welfare Fund is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d). The Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 were made applicable to beedi industry with effect from 31-5-77. Certain employers engaged in manufacture of beedi, filed writ petitions in Courts to stay the operation of the orders. The Supreme Court on 23-4-80 has stayed the operation of the Notification. The matter is being pursued for getting the stay vacated.

At present no proposal for fixation of national minimum wage for Beedi Workers with suitable variable dearness allowance, is under consideration of the Government.

#### Survey of Indian Ocean

**7595. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted of the Indian Ocean by the Ocean Science Board; and

(b) if so, the main results achieved?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH):** (a) and (b). No surveys have so far been conducted by the Ocean Science and Technology Agency (OSTA). Research and surveys are planned to be undertaken under

the aegis of OSTA after the acquisition of oceanographic research facilities. The first of these, the Oceanographic Research Vessel, for R&D on non-living resources and for sea bed studies is likely to be commissioned during 1982. The programme for research and surveys are being drawn up by interagency expert panels constituted by OSTA. Acquisition of the research vessels is being processed simultaneously. Surveys relating to mineral and hydrocarbon deposits, and oceanographic studies of a physical, chemical and biological nature have been, and continue to be carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography (Goa) using its research vessel RV GAVESHINI. Institute of Petroleum Exploration/ONGC are also engaged in geophysical surveys with their vessel "ANVESHVAK".

#### Foreign Vessels Operating in Indian Ocean

**7596. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign fishing trawlers are operating in Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, the number and details of foreign trawlers seized during the year 1980-81 and the area where they were operating?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1980-81, 68 foreign trawlers, mostly Taiwanese and Thai, were apprehended by the Naval and Coast Guard vessels, off the Coasts of Saurashtra, Kerala, Orissa, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

#### Freedom Fighters' Pension to Ex-INA Personnel of Himachal Pradesh

**7597. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters including ex-INA Personnel, who have

been sanctioned freedom fighters' pension by the Government of India in each of 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh; and the year in which they were sanctioned pension;

(b) the number of such freedom fighters among them as have died since then and whether their widows/minor dependents are getting this pension;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the cases for award of pension to the widows/dependents have still not been decided; and

(d) the likely date by which all such cases would be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) 269. In 254 cases the eligible widows and unmarried daughters of deceased freedom fighters have been sanctioned family/dependent pension.

(c) and (d). In 15 cases the final decision regarding grant of pension is awaiting furnishing of requisite information/documents from the applicants and reports from State Governments/Defence Record Offices. Final decision in these cases will be taken as soon as the requisite information becomes available. State Government have been requested to accord higher priority in these cases.

#### Statement

*Number of cases in which Central Freedom Fighters Pension (August, 1972) sanctioned in Districts of Himachal Pradesh.*

Name of the District	No. of freedom fighter including ex-INA personal sanctioned pension
Simla . . . . .	50
Kangra . . . . .	598
Una . . . . .	103
Hamirpur . . . . .	285
Bilaspur . . . . .	163
Solan . . . . .	38
Kulu . . . . .	18
Mahasu . . . . .	13

Mandi . . . . .	261
Sirmur . . . . .	52
Chamba . . . . .	42
Total	1625

#### Pension to freedom Fighters in Himachal Pradesh

7598. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters of Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Una and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh whose applications for the sanction of freedom fighters' pension are pending with Government for decisions;

(b) the period for which the applications are pending alongwith the reasons for which no decision has been made so far; and

(c) the likely date by which the decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c). There is no application pending initial scrutiny. However a final decision in these cases could not be taken for want of requisite information from the individual and/or reports from the State Government/Military records offices in respect of claims of ex-INA personnel. These cases will be finalised as soon as the information from the individuals and/or reports from the State Government/Military records office is received.