

vernment after due verification ; if so, when they were received in the Freedom fighters Division of his Ministry;

(b) whether a list with particulars of freedom fighters referred to in part (a) will be laid on the Table;

(c) the date on which the final decision taken in each case and the nature of action taken and communicated to the freedom fighter concerned;

(d) whether there were any cases which remained untouched upto 7 June, 1978; and

(e) if so, their particulars and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). More than fifteen thousand applications for grant of Freedom Fighters Pension now renamed Swatantra Sainik Samman Pension have so far been received from Punjab and more applications are still being sent. It would not be feasible to place a list with particulars of such a large number of applicants on the Table.

(c) to (e). A final decision to the eligibility of the applicants for Pension is taken after the receipt of the State verification and entitlement reports. Such State reports continue to be received from time to time. Cases which are found to be eligible under the Scheme are sanctioned and the applicants informed. Similarly reasons for rejection are communicated to each in-eligible applicant.

#### Car Project in Public Sector

2575. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opted for Renault for the Car Project in the public sector;

(b) if so, whether it will be a diesel car or the one driven by petrol;

(c) what are the terms of collaboration with the French firm manufacturing Renault;

(d) when its manufacture is likely to be taken up and when the first car is likely to be put on the road; and

(e) what will be its likely cost on road as per current level of prices and taxation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Negotiations are in progress with various foreign automobile manufacturers including M/s Renault for collaboration in the Public sector project for the manufacture of passenger cars and commercial vehicles. A decision on entering into an agreement with an appropriate party and on the type of vehicles to be manufactured will be taken on merits after evaluating their offers.

(d) It is expected that production of automobiles in the public sector project may commence in 1983.

(e) The cost of the car would depend on the model to be selected, investment made and other relevant factors.

#### Better Technology for Salt Production

2576. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to apply better technology for salt production to avoid wastages and ensure savings in cost and also to improve its quality and purity; and

(b) whether there is any difference in the purity and value of the Indian Salt vis-a-vis rock salt imported from Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Steps taken to adopt improved technology in Salt production to improve its yield and quality are:—

- (i) rendering advice to Salt manufacturers in regarding scientific layout of salt works;
- (ii) providing technical assistance to Salt manufacturers for survey of potential areas of salt manufacture and in preparation of layout plans of Salt works;
- (iii) spot supervision of alignment/re-alignment of salt works;
- (iv) undertaking analysis of samples of Soil brine, salt and bitters and advising salt manufacturers on process control;
- (v) use of polythene sheets to cut down wastages during manufacture and storage of salt; and use of polythene bags for package in place of jute bags to cut down transit losses.

(b) Due to variation in composition, the Rock salt imported from Pakistan is purer than sea/lake salt manufactured in India. The retail price of the imported Rock salt is Rs. 2 per Kg as compared to the average price of 60 paise per kg. of Indian salt.

#### Licences for Razor Blade Industry

2577. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether his ministry has decided to throw open the razor blade industry for new licences;

(b) whether a number of large business houses are interested in entering the field and some of them have already tied up with some inter-national manufacturers for technical collaboration; and

(c) if so, the names of these houses and the international/razor/blade cartel or firms with whom they propose to collaborate and on what terms and conditions equity capitals export of the finished product and repatriation of royalty and profits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Proposals for additional capacity for the manufacture of a safety razor blades were being considered on merits in the context of the approved capacity not materialising and also keeping in view the need for increased availability of quality blades. This policy continues to be in force.

(b) and (c). An Industrial licence has been granted in January 1980 to M/s. Karnataka Blades Limited for the setting up of a new unit for manufacture of safety razor blades as a joint sector project undertaken by the Karnataka State Industrial & Investment Development Corporation Limited along with Asian Cables Corporation Limited. Foreign technical collaboration with M/s Wilkinson Sword Limited, U.K. on payment of lump-sum and royalty has also been approved for this project.

A letter of intent has been issued to Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corpn. Limited for the setting up of a new unit for the manufacture of safety razor blades at Medak in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This proposal entails foreign collaboration and the collaboration proposals are awaited from the applicant.