

Governments/U.T. Admns. Out of the 3,85,388 applications so far received and pension in 1,20,913 cases have been sanctioned and 1,12,653 applications have been rejected as the claims in those cases could not be adequately established for the purpose of grant of Samman Pension. The remaining applications are awaiting final decision for want of requisite information from the applicant and/or verification reports from the State Governments and are expected to be finalised as soon as the same are received. The State Govt. are also reminded intermittently in individual cases. Therefore the observance of a clearance fortnight every year by the Govt. of India is not felt necessary.

2. The Government is keenly concerned to extend Samman Pension benefits to genuine and eligible freedom fighters expeditiously. The Freedom Fighters Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, where the claims of freedom fighters are processed has been strengthened. On request from the Ministry of Home Affairs, most of the State Govt./U.T. Admns. have set up special cells exclusively to deal with the Samman Pension cases of freedom fighters under the supervision of senior officers to ensure speedy verification of their claims. They have also been instructed to launch campaigns to clear all pending cases with them. With a view to help scrutinise the Samman Pension cases of freedom fighters expeditiously, State Advisory Committees, which had earlier

ceased to exist, have now been re-vitalised in most of the State Govts./U.T. Admns.

Recommendation of the Committee for Development of Backward Areas

1806. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee for the development of backward areas set up by the Planning Commission has since submitted its report and the recommendations examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the major recommendations made by the Committee as also those which have been accepted by the Government;

(c) if not, the likely date by which positive action would be taken on the recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) :

(a) to (d). The National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas which was set up on 30th November, 1978 has been submitting its reports in parts, on different subjects included in its terms of reference. The eleven reports which it has submitted are being examined in the Planning Commission in association with the concerned Ministries and State Governments. Action would be taken after detailed examination of the content and recommendations contained in these reports.