

So far, replies have been received from four of them.

(c) One of the terms of reference of the Law Commission is to revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities. The Commission has taken up a study of the subject *vo moto* in view of its general importance. The question as to how the interests of the consumers will be safeguarded by amending the law can be considered only after the Commission has completed its study and submitted its recommendations to Government.

Settlement of Grievances of Ex-servicemen in A.I.R.

588: SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received from the Ex-servicemen Welfare Association, New Delhi from 1 August 1983 to 1 February, 1984 for settling the grievances of ex-servicemen;

(b) how much time will be taken for settling the grievances of ex-servicemen in A.I.R. ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (c) 5 representation had been received during the period in question but all of them contain requests/demands of 1 employee.

The issues are on such matters like, grant of Government accommodation, grant of financial assistance, issue of CGHS card, claims of promotions, etc. All the representations have been replied to, after an examination, with reference to the rules and regulations on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in the Growth rate of unemployed persons

589. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of growth of the number of unemployed persons has been rising constantly for the past three years (i.e. since 1981) after falling to 10.1 per cent in 1980 from 16.1 per cent in 1978;

(b) if so, the main reasons to which the increase in growth rate of unemployment is attributable; and

(c) the relevant figures showing increase in the number of educated unemployed persons for the years under reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) The rate of growth of the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) has been rising since 1981. The relevant figures are given below :

Year (as at the end of)		Percentage increase in Live Register figure*
1978	...	16.1
1979	...	13.1
1980	...	13.0
1981	...	10.1
1982	...	10.7
1983	...	11.1

* Compared to the respective preceding years.

(b) The main reasons for the increase in the rate of growth of the number of job seekers with the Employment Exchanges are attributable to high rate of population growth leading to increase in the labour force, awareness among people to seek wage employment job-opportunities not being commensurate with demand mis-matching of available educational

qualifications, skills and experience with the requirements of specific jobs, etc,

(c) The number of educated job-seekers (Matric and above) who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) during the period 1978-1983 is as under :—

As at the end of		Number in Lakhs
1978	...	64.5
1979	...	73.0
1980	...	81.6
1981	...	90.2
1982	...	97.7
1983	...	108.6(P)

P—Provisional

Namrup Fertilizer Complex

590. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to discard the first unit of Namrup Fertilizer Complex built at a cost of Rs. 25.26 crores about 16 years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons leading to the proposal for discarding it ; and

(c) the alternative being provided to replace the fertilizer production capacity that would result from discarding the Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

Joint ventures with Norwegian Oil industry for off-shore oil development

591. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought joint ventures with the Norwegian Oil Industry for off-shore oil development, particularly off the Eastern Coast ;

(b) if so, the details of the joint ventures and the foreign participation contemplated therein; and

(c) the Norwegian Oil Industry's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) At present there is no proposal to set up a joint venture with the Norwegian Oil Industry for off-shore oil development, particularly off the Eastern Coast. However, the Government