

- (ii) Government servants proceeding on leave due to emergent circumstances;
- (iii) Staff of Vacation Departments going to mainland on vacation or returning after vacation;
- (iv) Students going from or returning to Port Blair to join Educational institutions on the closing opening of educational institutions on mainlands;
- (v) Other Government servants proceeding on leave; and
- (vi) others.

Setting up of factories during Fifth Plan for manufacture of Telephone Equipment

439. SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal is under the consideration of Government to set up new factories for the manufacture of instrumental lines, exchange equipments so as to reduce the waiting period for telephone; and
- (b) if so, the number of factories likely to be set up and capacity of each factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes

(b) During the Fifth Five Year Plan period, it is proposed to set up six new factories for manufacturing telecommunication equipment, viz., telephone instruments, exchange and transmission equipments, etc., Details regarding capacity, capital cost, etc., of these new units are being drawn up.

Grant of pension to Freedom Fighters

440. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications of Freedom Fighters still lying with Government pending decision;
- (b) in how many cases the pensions have been granted and the number of cases rejected; and
- (c) the additional steps taken to expedite the decision of pending cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) 71,296.

- (b) Pensions have been sanctioned in 83,073 cases and 34,592 cases rejected.
- (c) Pending cases are being referred to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations with the request to expedite verification reports in consultation with the State/District Level Committees. They have also been requested to assist the applicants who are being addressed separately. Such cases will be finalised on receipt of reports/evidence from the concerned State/Government/U.H. Administration.

Closure of Bhakra Dam in Punjab

441. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a great danger of closing down of Bhakra Dam in Punjab; and
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof?