

proper dry dock facilities in Indian ports for ship repairs;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide dry dock facilities in major ports; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent in this respect during the Fourth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) :

(a) and (b) . The existing dry docks in the country are inadequate to meet the requirements of Indian merchant ships. Government have very recently approved a scheme for the construction of a large Dry Dock measuring 800' x 125' x 38.7' capable of accommodating ships up to 57,000 DWT at Visakhapatnam on East Coast as an adjunct to the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the work on this Project is in progress. The second Shipyard at Cochin is also being planned to have a Dry Dock for repairs to vessels up to 85,000 DWT. The port authorities at Bombay and Calcutta have also under consideration proposals for the construction of additional dry docks as part of the port development schemes.

(c) A provision of Rs. 5 crores has been made in the draft outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan for the construction of the Dry Dock at Visakhapatnam.

POLITICAL PENSIONS

2294. **SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :**
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government continue to give political pensions to several former rulers in accordance with the agreements entered into with them by the former British Government of India;

(b) if so, the names of persons who continue to receive the political pensions;

(c) the amount of pension given to each; and

(d) whether Government intend to stop payment of these pensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the position, at the time of independence, of the political pensions granted by the British Government to the previous ruling families is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1794 /67*].

Such pensions are still being paid to some people. Though the pensions are paid out of the Central revenues, they are administered by the respective State Governments in accordance with the terms of each grant. The information regarding the amount being paid to each pensioner at present will have to be compiled, if required, by getting it from the State Governments. In fulfilment of an assurance given in reply to unstarred Question No. 2625 dated 8th June, 1962, information was laid on the Table of the House on 21st August, 1963 giving a list of 3,683 political pensioners and the amount paid to each.

(d) There is no such decision.

COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICES

2295. **SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :**
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI MARANDI :
SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH BHARATI :
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the scheme for compulsory national service for university students; and

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof would be laid on the Table ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) and (b). The scheme is under formulation at present.