

be released to them in addition to the sanctioned quota of 30,000 MT for the month of November, 96. They also suggested that the ceiling limit may be increased to 500 MT in case of Roller Flour Mills. Govt. of Maharashtra was allotted 40,000 MT and 60,000 MT of wheat during Nov. and Dec., 1996. In case of Roller Flour Mills, the ceiling has been raised to 500 MT per Roller Flour Mill per month. On 21st Nov., 1996 Govt. of Maharashtra suggested that the Women Cooperative Societies and Consumer Cooperative Societies may be exempted from paying the Earnest Money deposit. This has also been agreed to. The Government of Maharashtra have acknowledged in their Fax dt.21.11.96 that Food Corporation of India had accepted some of their suggestions which would facilitate smooth distribution of wheat in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Facilities to freedom fighters

3533. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for and the facilities provided to the freedom fighters by the Centre and State Governments; and

(b) the facilities provided by the Centre/State Governments to the dependents of the freedom fighters after their death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Freedom Fighters who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme are entitled for the following facilities, besides pension :-

- (a) Facility of free Railway passes (1st Class) for freedom fighters and to their widows/attendants, for life. (Unmarried/Unemployed daughters are not entitled for this benefit.
- (b) Free medical facilities in all Central Government Hospitals and also in the hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents.
- (c) Facility of General Pool residential accommodation to freedom fighters of All India Standing for the purpose of medical treatment in Delhi if they do not own any house/flat in their names or in the name of any of their family members/dependents in Delhi/New Delhi. (Dependents of deceased freedom fighter pensioners are not entitled for this benefit.)
- (d) Accommodation in the Freedom fighters Home set up at Baba Kharag Singh Marg.

New Delhi for such of the freedom fighters who have none to look after them. (Dependents of deceased freedom fighters pensioners are not entitled for this benefit.)

- (e) Facility of telephone connection, subject to feasibility without installation charges and payment of only half of the rentals.

Some of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also provided the benefits of pension and certain other facilities to the freedom fighters and their dependents as per the criteria adopted by them, which differ from State to State.

Lodging False Cases by Delhi Police

3534. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the USQ.No.50 on July 10, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the Government have received the judgement of the court;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far;

(c) if not, the date and details of action taken to get the judgement of the court;

(d) whether the Government have received more complaints against that SHO;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). yes, Sir. It has been decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the then Station House Officer (S.H.O.), Seemapuri and the Investigating Officer of the case.

(d) to (f). Two complaints were received against the said officer during the period he remained posted as Station House Officer (S.H.O.) in Delhi. These were examined but the allegations made in both these complaints were found to be not substantiated.

[English]

Afforestation

3535. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount given to Sikkim for afforestation and land use schemes under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during each of the last three years and 1996-97;

(b) the total area covered by such Centrally Sponsored afforestation schemes.

(c) whether a Central team ever visited the areas where such Schemes were carried out;

(d) if so, the report/comments of the team; and

(e) the action taken on the report/comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Rights of Animals

3536. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about Universal declaration of Animal Rights made by International League for Animal Rights in 1978;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt the same and make it a part of prevention of cruelties to Animals Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The fundamental duty of every citizen as enshrined in article 51A of Constitution is to show compassion to all living creatures and protect natural assets like forests, revive, lakes and wildlife etc. The Government have enacted the prevention of cruelty to animals Act, 1960 and established an Animal Welfare Board of India. Government are of the opinion that adoption of Universal declaration of Animal Rights by itself is no effective solution unless, those are fortified with public awareness. Concerted efforts are being made by the National Government, the State Government/ Union Territory Administration, to increase the awareness among public specially children on the importance of compassion, to animals. The Government will continue to do so every thing possible for promotion of animal welfare.

North-Eastern Department

3537. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for setting up of North-Eastern Department for the development of the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this department has started functioning;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to set up such a Central Department for the development of backward and rural areas of the Uttar Pradesh as well;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is already a Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs dealing exclusively with the North-Eastern Region. The Prime Minister himself is taking keen interest in the developmental activities of the said Region. A cell for the North-East has been created in the Prime Minister's Office. This Cell would monitor and coordinate the implementation of various initiatives announced by the Prime Minister regarding the North-East.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise, in view of reply given at (a) above.

(d) to (f). Question does not arise, in view of reply given at (a) above.

Indo-Oman Fertilizer Joint Venture

3538. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indo-Oman fertilizer joint venture has been finalised or is being finalised;

(b) the details of the joint venture including details of the parties involved; the type and the quantity of fertilizers and the price/cost involved;

(c) the major details of the terms of the agreement; and

(d) the time by which the joint venture agreement is expected to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India/Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)/Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and the Government of Sultanate of Oman/Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up of 3500 tonnes per day ammonia and 4400 tonnes per day urea project in Oman. The DFR of the project has been completed. The DFR has estimated the project cost at US \$ 1106 million including financing charges. The Joint Venture Agreement and other project agreements are at an advanced stage of finalisation.

Arms Dropping in Purulia

3539. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the CBI seized two more AK-56 rifles and a rocket launcher at Purulia, on November 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and