

Import of Bofors Guns

6924. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of guns received from the Bofors firm till date;

(b) whether the agreement between Government of India and Bofors is completely honoured by the both parties;

(c) if not, what clauses in the agreement are not honoured and by whom;

(d) whether the import of the Bofors guns is at par with the export of Indian goods to Sweden; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c). All the guns to be supplied under the Supply Contract with Bofors have been received. Certain items of supply under this Contract are continuing to be received. The payments made secretly into Swiss bank accounts are in violation of the explicit understanding and agreed conditions precedent to the Supply Contract and Licence Agreement.

(d) and (e). During a period of ten years from the date of Supply Contract i.e. from 24.3. 1986, Bofors are required to ensure counter trade of not less than 50 per cent of the value of the supplies made under this Contract and the Licence Agreement.

Regional Engineering College, Srinagar

6926. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar has been re-opened;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be reopened;

(d) whether students from South India have requested that they should be transferred to other Regional Engineering Colleges; and

(e) if so, the decision taken on their requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c). As per the Press Statement issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Government, the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar is to reopen on 15th of May, 1990.

(d) and (e). A number of students from various States have requested for a transfer to other Regional Engineering Colleges; and request is under consideration of the Government.

Employment to Dependants of Personnel Killed in Sri Lanka and Siachin

6927. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of dependants of personnel killed in Sri Lanka and Siachin have not yet been provided employment;

(b) if so, the total number of casualties and number of jobs provided to the dependants in the Armed forces and in the Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that Public Sector Undertakings provide due employment opportunities to the dependants

of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Upto two dependants of defence service personnel killed/disabled in action including war widow, are entitled to priority-II (a) (disabled over 50% disability and unfit for employment, but disability attributable to military service) for purposes of employment under Central Government, against Group 'C' and 'D' posts. In respect of IPKF casualties, as a special dispensation, Government have issued guidelines to various Government Departments and Public Sector undertaking to provide:

- i) Priority for employment to be given to disabled personnel for employment under Government over other normal cases of ex-servicemen against vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen;
- ii) Priority and compassionate appointment to dependants of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka operations with suitable relaxation to the extent possible, especially regarding criteria for consideration of terminal benefits received while assessing need for such appointment.

Felling of Mango Trees

6928. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale felling of mango trees for manufacturing timber packing boxes over the recent years in Maharashtra and other states;

(b) if so, estimated damage done by felling of mango trees for packing of oranges, and

(c) the strict measure/action proposed against felling of mango trees and banning the manufacturing of timber packing boxes as an effective step for preserving mango trees in Maharashtra-Vidarbha region in Particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Information is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra and other States and will be placed on the table of the House.

Measures for Rural Growth

6929. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJES-
WARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is considering some new measures to promote rural growth in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, The approach to the Eighth Plan, which is being evolved, puts emphasis, among others, on greater bias for the development of the rural sector. In this respect, it is envisaged to allocate 50 per cent of the public sector outlay, in the Eight Plan for programmes and projects which benefit agriculture and rural sectors. A guaranteed programme of employment would be a major element in this approach. It is also proposed