

Commission had recommended retention of the then existing upper age limit of 26 year. Subsequently, the National Training Conference on Training of Civil Servants in India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad and the Union Public Service Commission informed that the higher age limit is adversely affecting the proper training and moulding of the new recruits for the requirements of the services. The Union Public Service Commission advised that the upper age limit be reduced to 26 years. After careful consideration of the matter, it was decided in October 1983 to reduce the upper age limit to 26 years and to give effect to this from 1985 examination, so as to allow time for intending candidates to have at least one more chance to take the examination with higher age limit. This decision was also given wide publicity. Taking into account further representations received for applying the reduced upper age limit of 26 years from some other later date, Government have now decided that this reduced age limit would be effective from 1986 examination and not from 1985 examination.

Attack on Indian Fishermen by Sri Lanka Navy

*67. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many times Sri Lanka Navy has attacked unarmed Indian fishermen in the Indian territorial waters off Rameshwaram coast, the number of lives lost and the number of fishermen missing during last two years ; and

(b) the steps being taken to stop such killing of Indian fishermen by Sri Lanka Navy ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) There have been several incidents during the last two years in which Sri Lanka Naval vessels have attacked unarmed Indian fishermen

in the Indian territorial waters off the Rameshwaram coast.

- (i) In 1983, nine incident were reported.
- (ii) In 1984, twelve incidents were reported.
- (iii) Skippers of four fishing boats arrested in early 1984 are still in Sri Lanka. Seventeen skippers with their boats arrested on 11th October, 1984 are being held in Sri Lanka.
- (iv) Three fishermen have been killed in two separate incidents in the last two months.
- (v) On 11th January a Sri Lankan patrol boat was found well within Indian territorial waters harassing our fishermen and depriving them of their catches of fish and nets. The boat and seven crew members are held in India.

(b) Our Coast Guard has intensified patrolling. The Navy has also been asked to keep vigil.

We have lodged strong protests with Lankan Government and expressed concern over the recurrence of such incidents of intrusion in our territorial waters. We have also asked the Sri Lankan Government for the immediate release of skippers and boats and for the payment of compensation for the loss of life and property.

Reopening of Sick Industries in West Bengal

*68. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters urging for financial help and other support for the reopening of sick industries in West