

Bengal received by Government from the Chief Minister of West Bengal ;

(b) in how many cases action has been taken by Government ; and

(c) in how many cases action has not been taken and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Various references have been received from time to time from the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding rehabilitation of sick units in West Bengal by different Departments of the Government of India, and it would not be possible to specify the exact number of such letters.

(b) and (c). Government have taken action in these cases, having regard to various alternatives for final disposition of these units including nationalisation in accordance with the present policy.

[*Translation*]

Separate Authority for Preservation of Himalayan Art and Culture

*69. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal for creating a separate authority for the protection of art and culture and preservation of antiques of Himalayan region ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the other steps being taken by Government to protect the heritage of this region ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) and (b). The Government have no proposal at present.

(c) The Department is however,

aware of the special needs of the Himalayan region. Special programmes have been undertaken by the Institutions under the Department, as a part of their activities for protection of heritage. These are :

- (i) Documentation of various forms of performing arts of the region;
- (ii) Organisation of training programme for performing arts ;
- (iii) Preservation of folk musical instruments and others artefacts of this region in the museums ;
- (iv) Grant of financial assistance to various voluntary organisations engaged in promotion of these activities ;
- (v) Preservation and conservation of monuments/paintings.
- (vi) Collection of Manuscripts.
- (vii) Documentation of murals, and
- (viii) Publication of literature.

[*English*]

Study by U.S. State Department Indicating India's Instability in the Event of Smt. Indira Gandhi's Death

*70. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report that the U.S. State Department had ordered a study to find out how unstable, India would become if Smt. Indira Gandhi were to die suddenly ;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether the copies/manuscript of this report were made available to

Indian Embassy in Washington for forwarding to Govt. of India ; and

(d) if so, when the report was received by the Indian Embassy and when it was received in India and the action taken thereon ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) The Government of India are aware that the U.S. State Department had commissioned Robert L. Hardgrave who is Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin to prepare a study on likely trends in social, political and foreign policies in India in the next five years. The political situation in India envisaged in the event of Smt. Gandhi's sudden death is one of the several scenarios in the study.

(b) Government find the chapter which predicated on Smt. Indira Gandhi's sudden death totally abhorrent. Indeed it raises many questions which are being examined.

(c) and (d). Our Consul General in San Francisco received from Prof. Hardgrave a part of the draft manuscript in September 1983. A part of the final manuscript was received by our Embassy in Washington from Prof. Hardgrave by post in the first week of March, 1984. The remaining portion followed after about a week. A copy of the manuscript was sent by the Embassy routinely to the Ministry on March 12, 1984.

Unfortunately, the manuscript was not studied thoroughly at the time. We are looking into the lapses that have occurred in this regard. Meanwhile we are also taking steps to prevent their occurrence in the future.

Also, in the light of subsequent events, the Government are examining the circumstances of the commissioning of this study and its implications.

Shortage of Gas Cylinders

*71 SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial units in public and private sectors manufactured by them annually ;

(b) whether there is still shortage of gas cylinders and there is a long queue for getting gas connection ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of gas cylinders to meet the demand ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) In the organised sector there are 33 units manufacturing LPG cylinders and their production during 1983 has been 19.45 lakhs and during 1984 (January to November) 31.71 lakhs.

(b) The Department of Petroleum have reported that there is no shortage of gas cylinders in the country. Connections are released as per the enrolment programme chalked out on the basis of LPG production and availability of bottling capacity in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translations]

Increase in Freedom Fighter's Pension

*72. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Freedom Fighters Organisation and certain ex-Members of Parliament have long been demanding that the amount of monthly pension of the freedom fighters and the widows of freedom fighters be raised from rupees three hundred and two hundred respectively to rupees five hundred