

which they have been sentenced. According to the latest figures made available by the Burmese authorities on the 6th July, 1982, there are at present 58 Indian detenus in Burmese jails.

Our Mission in Rangoon is in regular touch with the Burmese authorities regarding the welfare, release and, where necessary, return home of such Indian nationals who have to be distinguished from people of Indian origin.

U.S. Bases in Gwadar, Trincomali and St. Martin

*291. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) are Government aware that the US foreign bases in Gwadar (Pakistan) Trincomali (Sri Lanka), and in the St. Martin Island (Bangladesh) are in progress;

(b) whether Government have raised the issue with concerned neighbouring countries;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) has any note been exchanged with the US Government in this context?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in the press that the U.S. is establishing bases at Gwadar in Pakistan, Trincomalee in Sri Lanka and St. Martin's Island in Bangladesh. Government have also noted the denials by the Governments of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in this regard.

Government of India are opposed to the establishment of any foreign base in the Indian Ocean region as it would be a threat to our security and to the peace and tranquility of the region as a whole.

Admission of SC/ST Students in M.A. Classes of Delhi University

*295. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1980-81 in the Delhi University admissions to the M.A. Classes in Arts and Science Students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been refused due to low percentage of marks;

(b) whether it is Government policy not to give relaxation for admission of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the M.A. Classes in the Delhi University, if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what is the present policy in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) In Delhi University during 1980-81, for admission to M.A. Courses, 5 per cent relaxation in the minimum qualifying marks was given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates. For admission to M.Sc. Courses, students belonging to these categories were given weightage of 5 per cent in the aggregate marks or in the subject offered or in the marks obtained at the screening test. Such students of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as did not fulfill these eligibility conditions were not admitted.

(b) and (c). According to the Government/UGC guidelines, 20 per cent of the seats are reserved for SC/ST candidates and they are also given a concession of 5 per cent in the percentage of marks required for admission to any course. In case of 20 per cent seats earmarked for SC/ST candidates remain unfilled, Government have suggested that the proposal for giving further relaxation in the marks so that all the reserved seats are filled by candidates belong-

ing to these categories may be considered favourably by the University authorities.

Help sought by Orissa Government for Paradip Port

*296. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has urged the Centre to intervene and help in the economic operation of Paradip Port;

(b) if so, details of the help sought by Orissa Government;

(c) whether the Centre has provided any help in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). The State Government have taken up with the Government of India ways and means of increasing traffic at Paradip Port. The main emphasis is on the increase in iron ore export.

(c) and (d). The decline in the iron ore traffic at Paradip Port has been causing concern to the Central Government and several discussions have recently been conducted with concerned organisations. The MMTC which handles export of iron ore, reports that most of the iron ore exported from Paradip was in the form of lumps, while the preference in the international market was for fines. There is also slackness in the world iron ore export market and the inability of Paradip Port to handle vessels bigger than 60,000 DWT. The MMTC has been asked to explore the possibility of finding new avenues of export. Besides, to step up the traffic at the port, Ministry of Agriculture has been requested to increase the quantum of imported fertilizers at Paradip Port.

Pay Revision of State College Teachers

*297. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers of colleges and Universities in a number of States have interim relief pending a pay revision which has been over due for the last five years; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to make a uniform recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). Government are not aware of any demand for interim relief pending pay revision nor is it correct to assume that a pay revision has become over-due for the last five years. Government have, however, received some memoranda from the organisations of teachers demanding a further revision of their pay scales. The salary scales of university and college teachers were revised with effect from 1-1-1973, the date from which the pay scales of Central Government employees were revised. Any further revision of pay scales of teachers has therefore to be considered as and when such a decision is taken by the Central Government in respect of their employees.

Drugs Resistant Malaria Virus

*298. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug resistant malaria virus has been found;

(b) how many persons are suffering from malaria on account of this in India;

(c) wherefrom did it originate and how did it spread to India;