

there is no provision to enable tenants to purchase land or for conferment of ownership right on them.

No French Bases in Indian Ocean

*224. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power 75-member French delegation visited India in February last led by General G. Etcheverry, Chief of the French National Defence Institute;

(b) purpose of the visit of this delegation and the objectives achieved; and

(c) whether the French delegation gave an assurance that France has no bases in Indian Ocean and that France supports India's policy of keeping the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) A team consisting of about 100 members of the Institute of Higher Studies on National Defence of France, led by Lt. Gen. Jean Paul Etcheverry visited India from 17th to 22nd February, 1976.

(b) and (c). The visit was in the nature of a Study tour undertaken by the Institute on their own initiative.

Government have seen press reports of the views reported to have been expressed by the Leader of the team that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace.

Applications from West Bengal for Industrial Licence

*229. SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventy-three applications for industrial licences and 161 applications in delicensed sector involving Rs. 112.23 crores and Rs. 12

crores respectively from West Bengal are still lying undisposed of with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). Only 28 applications for industrial licences involving approximately Rs. 61 crores are pending. These include applications for licences for new undertakings, substantial expansion and new articles.

Only 14 applications are pending for registration with the Directorate General of Technical Development, involving investment of Rs. 3.5 crores.

Important considerations such as availability of infrastructure, raw materials, know-how, demand, capacity installed etc., are to be kept in view, while taking decisions, and delay occurs generally due to insufficient information supplied by the applicant or time taken by concerned authorities in supplying information to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals. However, every effort is being made to dispose of pending applications as expeditiously as possible.

Instructions to Central Government Offices in Goa to employ Local Persons

*230. SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to Central Government Offices and institutions in Goa to employ locally domiciled persons in class III and IV posts; and

(b) extent of compliance with such instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM