

Pilferage and Sale of Military Ammunition and Small Arms

* 465. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Military Ammunition and small arms are pilfered and sold in the market;

(b) the estimated loss annually incurred by the Department by such activities; and

(c) the steps taken so far to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): (a) to (c). Some cases of pilferage and sale of arms and ammunition from Defence establishments have come to the notice of Government. Necessary action has been taken to recover them, and to punish the persons responsible. A number of security measures have also been initiated to prevent recurrence of such thefts.

Requirement of Vijayanta Tank Plates

* 466. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH—KOTAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are in a position to make available all the requirements of Vijayanta tank plates from the Hindustan Steel;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the efforts which Government are making to meet the requirements in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Requirements of armour plates for Vijayanta tanks are being met by Hindustan Steel Ltd., to the extent of 65%. The remainder are being imported for lack of capacity in Hindustan Steel Ltd.

(c) An expert committee representing both users and producers has been appointed recently by Government to examine ways and means to step up production at Hindustan Steel Ltd. to meet the full requirements of Heavy Vehicles Factory.

Central Government Building Lying Vacant Near Raipur

* 467. MAHARAJA MARTAND SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a building constructed by the Government of India near Raipur at a cost of over Rs. 12 lakhs is lying vacant for about two and a half years;

(b) if so, the purpose for which the said building was constructed; and

(c) the reasons for not putting the said building to any use?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of a Fertilizer Factory at Paradeep

* 471. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India have since submitted the Report regarding setting up a Fertilizer Factory at Paradeep in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the nature of their main recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations wishing to set up Hospitals in Rural Areas

* 472. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give grants to voluntary organisations wishing to set up hospitals particularly in rural areas:

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof and the