

the factory from August 1, 1973. According to them it was not possible for them to run the factory due mainly to financial difficulties. According to the report dated August 9, 1973 received from the Government of Maharashtra, the management has postponed the date of closure by one month to September 1, 1973. As regards the possible steps to senile the running of the factory property, the State Government is already sei/ed of lit- matter.

Employment to dependents of Armed Forces Personnel

•329. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI VII'HAL GADGIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of dependents of members of the Armed forces who died or were disabled in the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971 have not been able to secure any employment so far;

(b) if so, the number of such persons who are without employment till the end of July, 1973; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

SIR MINISTERS

assistance to the dependents of those killed/disabled in the 1971 conflict is supplementary to the main rehabilitation benefits made available to the families by Government, in the form of liberalised pensionary awards and free educational facilities for their children upto the first degree level in any recognised educational institution including boarding, lodging, cost of books and uniform. In case the liberalised pensionary awards a widow of an officer is entitled to 2/3rds of the pay of the rank held by the officer at the time of death for a period of 7 years or till the deemed date of retirement

whichever is later. Thereafter, she is entitled to the normal retiring pension of the rank held at the time of death. In the case of a JCO/OR the nominated heir is entitled to a pension at the rate of the pay drawn by the deceased for life. Those servicemen who are disabled out of service are in receipt of a war Injury pay consisting of a service element equal in amount to the normal retiring pension of the rank held at the time of his disablement and a disability element which for UK) per cent disability is equal in amount to the emoluments last drawn minus the service element, limited to Rs. 500.

1'. There are 1446 cases for employment of dependents now being processed with various employing agencies including the Director General of Employment and Training and the State Governments. Out of the cases being processed, nearly 700 are virtually unemployable on account of ill-health and age. Further it is not desirable to provide employment to them away from their local environments and jobs are not easily available in villages. The unemployment problem in the country has also to be taken into account. The matter is under continuous discussion with employing agencies of the Central and State Governments in association with the Director General of Employment and Training.

Prime Ministers' Conference of Commonwealth Countries held in Canada

•530. SHRI L. S. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he attended the Prime Ministers' Conference of Commonwealth countries held in Canada recently;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions reached at the conference;

(c) whether the issue of arms build-up in the South-East-Asia was taken up there; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.