

COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF AIR CRASHES

549. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received serious complaints of non-payment of compensation in respect of victims of air crashes;

(b) the total number of persons killed in air crashes during the last four years and the number of persons in respect of whom compensation has not been paid so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite the payment of compensation to dependents of such victims of air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) In the course of the debate on the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 1972, the Honble Member himself referred to a case of nonpayment of compensation.

(b) and (c) The number of passengers and crew killed in accidents to Indian registered aircraft operating scheduled and non-scheduled services from January 1968 to December 1971 is 125. Compensation has not been paid so far in respect of 41 persons due to non-receipt of succession certificates. The management has been instructed to settle the claims as quickly as possible.

SALE OF NATIONAL DEFENCE CERTIFICATES WITHOUT NUMBER

550. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the allegation about the sale of National Defence Certificates in Andhra Pradesh without serial number and printed on ordinary paper from some private press;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) the total amount of the sale proceeds of such Certificates?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The sale of National Defence Certificates was discontinued from the close of business on the 14th March, 1970. No ease of sale of these Certificates in Andhra Pradesh without serial number and printed on ordinary paper from some private press has come to notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

WAR SHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN APART FROM U. S. A.

551. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain countries apart from the U. S. A. and the U.S.S.R. have sent their war ships recently in the Indian ocean; and

(b) if our Navy sufficiently equipped to keep a track of the movements of the warships belonging to the other nations "in the Indian ocean?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Ocean comprises an area of nearly 28 million square miles and, it is not possible for the Indian Navy to keep an effective surveillance of this entire area.

PROMOTION OF OFFICERS IN DEFENCE FORCES

552. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state ;

(a) what is the percentage of officers promoted during the last three years from the ranks compared to the number of officers recruited directly in the Defence Forces; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to raise the percentage quota for promotion; if so, to what extent?