

FREE TREATMENT TO EX-SERVICEMEN ON ACCOUNT OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

616. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all ex-servicemen belonging to the Army, Navy and the Air Force who have been invalidated on account of pulmonary tuberculosis, are given free domiciliary treatment, as outpatients at all armed forces hospitals on relapse of the disease; and

(b) if so, how many persons suffering from such diseases have approached the Ministry for help in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) Only those ex-servicemen of the Army, Navy and Air Force who have been invalidated out of service on account of pulmonary tuberculosis, which has been accepted as attributable to or aggravated by service, and for which disability pension has been granted, are eligible for this concession.

(b) This concession was granted only in April 1968; so far one person has approached Army H.Qs. for help.

CZECHOSLOVAK SUPPORT TO U.N. RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

617. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Czechoslovak Ambassador in Pakistan is reported to have stated in May last that his country firmly supports the U.N. Resolution on Kashmir envisaging freedom to the Kashmiri people to choose their destiny;

(b) if so, whether the statement is contrary to the past declarations made by the Czechoslovak Government on the subject;

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India to the statement?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Government have seen Pakistani newspaper reports to this effect.

(b) and (c) Clarification was sought in this regard from the Czechoslovak authorities. The Czechoslovak Ambassador in Pakistan informed us that he had made

no such statement. The Czechoslovak Foreign Office has reaffirmed that there was no change in the policy of the Government of Czechoslovakia on the Kashmir issue. The Czechoslovak Ambassador in India also made a statement to pressmen to this effect. Obviously this was a case of Pakistani misreporting.

ANNUAL PLAN FOR 1968-69

618. SARDAR RAM SINGH :
SHRI B. K. MAHANTY :
CHAUDHARY
A. MOHAMMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual plan for 1968-69 which was scheduled to commence on April, 1968 has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) when it is likely to be finalised?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Madam. The Annual Plan for 1968-69 has been finalised and has been under implementation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PAK. FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT RESOLVING KASHMIR PROBLEM

619. SARDAR RAM SINGH :
CHAUDHARY
A. MOHAMMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan has recently stated that Pakistan is willing to hold talks with India, with or without a mediator, to resolve the so-called Kashmir problem; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) India's position is clear. We are prepared to discuss and settle all our differences with Pakistan in a spirit of good neighbourliness, without any preconditions on either side.