

under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964 have been accepted by the Ceylon Government up-to-date;

(b) the number of applications which are still pending; and

(c) the time by which these applications are likely to be decided?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government of Ceylon have informed us that 225 persons have been granted Ceylon citizenship and that about 12,000 applications are pending. Expeditious action is being taken in regard to the pending applications.

CHINA'S MISSILE TEST

543. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported Chinese plan to have a missile-mounted nuclear test in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Government have no reliable information on this.

(b) Does not arise.

ENEMY PROPERTY IN PAKISTAN

544. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON:

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:

SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government has decided to sell away a number of so-called "enemy properties" in East Pakistan;

(b) whether these properties include cotton mills, tea gardens and cinema halls; and

(c) if so, whether Government have protested to Pakistan against the move?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Government have seen in Pakistani newspapers a Press Note issued by the East Pakistan Enemy Property Board seeking to auction a number of enemy properties in East Pakistan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. A strong protest was lodged with the High Commission of Pakistan on the 6th November, 1968.

EXEMPTION OF SCHOOL FEES OF CHILDREN OF EX-SERVICEMEN

545. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given any directive to the State Government to exempt children of ex-Servicemen from payment of school fees at least up to the end of the Secondary School stage; and

(b) if not, whether Government have any proposal under their consideration in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government had requested the State Governments to give this concession and some other concessions to the children of Service personnel who are awarded gallantry decorations in the Vir Chakra series in person or posthumously or are killed in action. Many State Governments/Administrations had, on their own, given educational concessions to children of Service personnel during the Emergency and the Government of India have requested them to continue these concessions as a permanent measure.