

sidered for absorption in the Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, National Cadet Corps, and All India and Central Services (Class I) and (Class II).

PENSION CASES OF NON-GAZETTED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

800. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension cases of all the eligible non-gazetted civilian employees of the various establishments under the Ministry of Defence (excluding those employed in the main Ministry) who retired before 1st January, 1963 have since been finalised;

(b) if not, the number of pending cases and the period for which they are pending; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the sanction of pension of such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) 18, as in April 1967; all these cases are pending for over four years.

(c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Periodical progress reports regarding these pending cases are being received and scrutinised in the office of the Controller General of Defence Accounts and the Ministry of Defence.

The following measures have been adopted to expedite the disposal of pension claims of civilians paid from the Defence Services Estimates:—

(i) Instructions were issued in November 1966 for submission, by the Heads of offices to their Departmental Heads, of half-yearly returns of pension cases outstanding for over six months, with reasons for the delay. A copy of these returns is also to be forwarded to the pension sanction-

ing authority, namely the Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Allahabad Departmental Heads on their part, have been asked to pay special attention to the outstanding cases and, where necessary, to issue instructions to lower administrative authorities to submit expeditiously particulars documents information, etc. required for the speedy finalisation of the pension cases.

(ii) There was a time lag previously in issuing general orders notifying the changes introduced from time to time in the pensionary rules applicable to civilians paid from the Defence Services Estimates, on the basis of corresponding orders issued by the Ministry of Finance. In order to obviate this time lag, orders were issued in December 1966 that the such general orders issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance will automatically apply to civilians paid from the Defence Services Estimates.

(iii) A pamphlet indicating the details of the pension procedure applicable in respect of civilians paid from the Defence Services Estimates, which consolidates the various orders on the subject, is under print. The pamphlet will be distributed for the guidance of all units/formations and the audit authorities, in dealing with pension claims.

REFUSAL TO INDIAN JOURNALIST BY NEPAL GOVERNMENT ON KATHMANDU-KODARI ROAD

801. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported refusal by the Nepal Government to allow an Indian journalist to drive on the Chinese-built Kathmandu-Kodari Highway beyond Dulikhet;

(b) if so, whether nationals of all foreign countries are subject to such restriction while travelling on the said Road; and

(c) if the answer to part(b) above be in the negative, what steps the Government of India propose to take to have this discrimination against Indians removed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA):

(a) Yes, Sir. However this was before the road was opened for the general public including Nepalese nationals. After the road was declared open to the public on 2nd June, 1967 by the Government of Nepal, Indians including this journalist have travelled on this road without any restriction, beyond Dulikhhet.

(b) Foreigners other than Indians in Nepal are required to obtain permits for travelling along the Kathmandu-Kodari road. So far as Indians are concerned there are no restrictions and they are allowed to travel without permits since 2nd June, 1967 when the road was declared open to the public.

(c) Does not arise.

DEFENCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

802. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research Laboratory (Material) Kanpur is being shifted to Gwalior; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The activities of the Defence Research Laboratory (Materials), Kanpur have greatly increased during the past few years. As the existing Laboratory at Kanpur is badly congested, and cannot provide the space required for the additional facilities, certain Research and Development divisions have been shifted to Gwalior where accommodation is available.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY AND COMPULSORY ARBITRATION

803. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether a Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration Scheme has been introduced for the Government employees at all levels in the Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): In the Ministry of Defence there will be three levels of joint councils under the Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration Scheme. They are (1) Departmental Council—Ministry level, (2) Middle level—Command/Directorate/Service Headquarters level and (3) Lower level—Unit/Installation level. The question of constituting the Departmental Council is under active consideration and the Council is likely to be formed shortly. The joint councils at the other two levels will be set up after the Departmental Council starts functioning.

EXCESSIVE PRICES FOR SPORTING GUNS

804. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the excessive prices that are being quoted by ammunition dealers for sporting guns; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes Sir. Five such complaints have been received during the last 2 years.

(b) Action was taken for having the allegations investigated through the District authorities/State Governments. In one case, on the basis of the report received from the District authorities, supplies to the arms dealer have been stopped. In the remaining cases the results of the investigations are awaited.