

(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 Dulikhet.

(b) Foreigners other than Indians in Nepal are required to obtain permits for travelling along the Kath-mandu-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 Headquarter* 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 GUN»

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.

The rate of production of guns has also been stepped up so that adequate stocks are available in the market and the opportunity to sell guns at higher prices does not arise. It has been clarified in a Press Release issued about 2 weeks ago that if any one experiences any difficulties he can get in touch with the Department of Defence Production or the Director-General of Ordnance Factories. It has also been clarified that, if sufficient evidence of any mal-practice or black-marketing is produced, suitable action would be taken against the arms dealer concerned.

The retail price of the non-ejector pattern short-gun 2F" chamber non-engraved hammerless is Rs. 750/- while the ejector pattern is priced at Rs. 950/-. These prices include the arms dealer's commission.

CHINESE CONCENTRATION NEAR SIKKIM

805. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has recently concentrated its troops near Sikkim border; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Although there has been no significant development recently, Chinese troops continue to remain in strength across the borders of India and Sikkim.

(b) Government keep a close watch on developments across our borders having a bearing on our security and these are taken note of in our defence plans.

SURPLUS PERSONNEL IN DEFENCE INSTALLATIONS

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

(a) what is the number of surplus personnel in all the Defence Installations;

(b) what action has been taken to absorb such personnel; and

(c) the number of such personnel who have been absorbed so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

LDC/UDC RATIO

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

(a) whether the ratio of 3 : 8 for LDC/UDC has been extended to all directorates of the Ministry of Defence; and

(to) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) The ratio of 3 : 8 for UDC/LDC has been adopted in the Army Ordnance Corps, the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps and the Record Offices (Army).

(b) The question of extending the ratio of 3:8 in respect of UDCs and LD/C of other Services/Corps/Arms under the Ministry of Defence is under consideration. The ratio has to be related to the quantum and nature of work dealt with in the various Services/Corps/Arms; and for this purpose, on-the-spot studies by the relevant Establishment Committees have been authorised.

तनजानिया को आर्थिक सहायता

808. श्री राम सहाय : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) तनजानिया को भारत ने जो 2.5 करोड़ रुपया मशीनें इत्यादि खरीदने के लिये देना तजवीज किया था, क्या वह उसको दे दिया गया है और हां, तो किन शर्तों पर ; और