

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;