

SHIFTING OF DEFENCE MINISTRY'S OFFICE TO KANPUR

558. SHRI P. CHETIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to shift some of the offices of the Defence Ministry to Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) It has been decided to bifurcate the office of the D.G.O.F. at Calcutta, and form a separate directorate for non-lethal ordnance factories at Kanpur.

(b) The above decisions have been taken in order to increase the efficiency, and to obviate the over-centralisation involved in administration of all the factories from Calcutta. Two of the non-lethal ordnance factories are situated in Kanpur and another is nearby. The expenditure involved will be known after details of the shift have been worked out.

BIFURCATION OF THE OFFICE OF D.G.O.F.

559. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bifurcate the office of the D.G.O.F. and form a separate directorate for non-lethal factories;

(b) if so, the total expenditure involved in the process of bifurcation; and

(c) the reasons for bifurcating the existing set-up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) A decision to this effect has been taken by Government.

(b) The bifurcation will be effected within the existing sanctions for the overall D.G.O.F.'s Organisation and the question of additional expenditure purely as a result of bifurcation does not arise at present. Some expenditure will be incurred on the shift at the appropriate time to Kanpur.

(c) The bifurcation of the existing set-up, which will be on functional basis, is intended to increase administrative efficiency.

SIKH SHRINES IN PAKISTAN

560. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee has urged the Prime Minister to secure from Pakistan the full right of management, service and protection of the Sikh Shrines in Pakistan for S.G.P.C.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee endorsed to Government a copy of a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, Punjab, urging that a settlement should be arrived at with Pakistan for getting for the S.G.P.C. or its nominees the control of Gurdwaras and their properties located in Pakistan.

(b) Negotiations on this subject between the Governments of India and Pakistan have taken place through the Indo-Pakistan Joint Committee on shrines, which was set up following the Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955. The first meeting of the Committee was held in January 1958. The Second meeting of this Committee has not yet been agreed to by the Government of Pakistan though we have repeatedly pressed for it.