

who enter service thereafter. The new scheme provides for a minimum pension to the widow of Rs. 25 p.m. and a maximum pension of Rs. 150 p.m., adjusted for different slabs of pay of the employee concerned, and for payment of allowances to minor children in the event of the death of the widow. Under this new scheme, the widow of any regular employee, whether permanent or temporary, who has put in one year's service will be entitled for pension for life in the event of death of the employee. A civilian employee will be required to surrender from the death-cum-retirement gratuity due to him two months' emoluments as a token contribution. In respect of Defence Services personnel, below officer rank, the new scheme would practically be non-contributory because no gratuity is payable to these personnel in addition to service pension.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I know whether the rates given in the statement applicable now or whether they have been revised in view of the new pension scheme for Government servants that was announced recently?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The new scheme will replace the old ordinary family pension scheme.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Do I understand that the rates given in the statement are the old ordinary pension rates? But in view of the new announcement recently made by the Government about giving pensions to the widows of Government servants, has there been any change in the rates stated in the statement?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Naturally, the new scheme will apply. As I said, the new scheme will certainly replace the old ordinary family pension scheme. That means, the new scheme will take its place. These are the old figures.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government have under con-869 RSD—2.

sideration the question of granting full pension to the widows of the jawans who fell in the border dispute with China? This was done during the last Second World War.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: No, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Why not? May I know why not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that it was not under consideration.

SUPERSONIC PLANES

•513. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the lessons learnt out of joint air exercises recently conducted in India, is the need of procuring supersonic planes immediately for the Indian Air Force; and

(b) if so, whether any approach for procurement of these planes from foreign sources has been made?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) The object of the joint air exercises was to train I.A.F. personnel in effective uses of radar and communications and to learn the latest air defence techniques. But the exercises has underlined that more advanced all-weather fighter aircraft would improve our ability to intercept enemy bombers.

(b) Government have always been aware of the necessity of equipping the Air Force with supersonic aircraft. The MIG aircraft proposed to be manufactured in the country is supersonic and the HF-24 under development at HAL. is also intended to be a supersonic aircraft. The procurement of supersonic aircraft forms part of the overall negotiations being conducted with other countries for assistance.

SHEI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Speaking of the lessons that we have learnt out of these joint air exercises, I would like to know if all the radar equipment and other communication equipment that are necessary have been procured and have been installed?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Whatever has been procured has been installed. But the mobile radars which are now installed will be replaced by the static radars when they come. It will take 18 months' time.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The Prime Minister was pleased to say the other day at Jaipur that the Chinese aggression had got to be vacated, if necessary, by force. Of course, this certainly implies that we have to equip 'ourselves very soon with all the necessary aircraft and radar equipment. In view of this, does the hon. Defence Minister see the necessity of procuring supersonic aircraft very soon?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: We have certainly accepted the necessity of these supersonic aircraft. Necessary efforts will be continued to be made.

SHRI /M. RUTHNASWAMY: What is the proportion of fighters to bombers in our Air Force?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I do not think I will be able to give this information.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: At any rate, one of the lessons that America seems to have learnt is that a part of their Seventh Fleet should be stationed in the Indian Ocean. I would like to know if this is one of the lessons that has emerged out of the joint exercises that have been held.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I do not think both have any relation to each other.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the experience during the joint air exercises was that the attacking aircraft could not be successfully intercepted and that it reached the industrial belt of Durgapur and Ranchi and, if so, what steps are being taken to strengthen the defence in this respect?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I think the hon. Member has put a hypothetical case because it is not true that the interception did not take place.

SHRI SYED AHMED: Is it true that when we approached certain countries for certain supersonic planes, they refused to supply them?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: They have not rejected it. Naturally, it has been accepted in principle that our Air Force does need such aircraft. That has been accepted in principle. But acceptance in principle does not necessarily mean agreement to give.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: The first prototype of HF-24 produced in this country was demonstrated nearly two years ago before the Prime Minister at Bangalore. May we know why speedy progress is not being made with regard to the production of this aircraft and why (We are going in search of supersonic aircraft in other countries?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: The development of aircraft, in any case, takes a pretty long time. The prototype flown was Mk. I type. It crossed the sound barrier. But a number of further trials have to be done. It has to be flown a number of times. Other prototypes are being made and Mk. I type is being put to very rigorous trials with a view to seeing that it can as soon as possible, go into squadron service as a reliable and efficient aircraft.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know whether the hon. Defence Minister is in a position to assure the

nation that our Air Force is prepared enough to meet any emergency and that it can protect all the strategic installations in the country in case of any enemy attack?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I should say, generally yes, Sir.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: The Minister has just now said that it has been accepted in principle. I would like to know what hurdles are in the way of getting these aircraft from any country and what the reasons are that are quoted by America against the (supply, immediate supply, of these aircraft under any arrangement.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: No reasons are given, or no reasons are expected to be given, I mean, the fact is that there is no agreement to give, but when we say that it is accepted in principle, it means that the need of our Air Force to have such an all-weather fighter is accepted in arguments and in discussions.

SOVIET UNION'S CONCERN OVER ARMS TO PAKISTAN

*514. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has expressed great concern over Pakistan being armed with new weapons and planes;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to obtain new weapons and planes from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

(c) if so, what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to certain press reports of the Press Trust of India—to the news which comes from Moscow—that the Government of the U.S.S.R. are expressing concern over the build-up in Pakistan and, if so, whether the Government have tried to ascertain the veracity of these reports?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have nothing more to add. I have said, "No, "Sir", and that remains.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question is whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the press reports

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir, our attention has been drawn to them.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: . . . and whether they took steps to ascertain the veracity of these reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Attention has been drawn, but she has nothing to add to the reply she has given.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question is about part (b) which refers to the request to the U.S.S.R. for giving us planes, and it has just now been admitted by the Defence Minister that we are in need of supersonic planes. If so, I want to know whether any efforts have been made by the Government to procure the supersonic planes from the U.S.S.R.

SHRI SYED AHMED: It does not arise out of this question.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: How can you say that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to say something?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: The hon. House knows that . . .