

other. It depends on the availability of space, the cost of construction and various other factors. Most of the Service Officers spend most of their time in very hard and rigorous conditions, so that wherever it is possible to give them more spacious accommodation, we try to provide it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether this special favour—I do not object if it is extended to others—is shown to the military officers living in Delhi, Calcutta and similar other cities, living a hard life compared to the civilian officers?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: The scale of accommodation in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, etc., has relation to the standard set up by the Central P.W.D. which is common to the civilian officers. In other places different circumstances obtain.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Some other consideration has entered into. May I know whether the Government has cared to find out from civilian officers that this is something which is not regarded as a very good practice in the affairs of administration?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is it? You are making a comment.

LONG-TERM PAYMENT FOR EQUIPMENTS PURCHASED FOR DEFENCE

•717. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether long-term payments for equipments purchased for defence have been negotiated by his Ministry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : There is only, one case where long-term payments for equipment purchased for Defence Services have been arranged by this Ministry. This is in regard to the purchase of a Naval Ship from the U.K.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether there is any practice in the Defence Ministry to purchase all articles directly from the firms or have they got any other agency?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sometimes it is done on a Government to Government basis, but very often through our Embassies abroad.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it a fact that on many occasions, specially in the Estimates Committee, certain observations are made, certain adverse comments are made with regard to the manner in which these purchases are made?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: I would request the hon. Member to pin it down to a particular remark, and then I will be in a position to answer it.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The hon. Minister said this was purchased, but he has not answered through which agency this purchase was made.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: It was purchased from the British Admiralty.

DR. NALINAKSHA DUTT: May I know what was the foreign exchange involved and what was the rate of interest?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: This is the only case where we have been able to make a long-range arrangement, and then under the convention now operating it would not be permissible for me to disclose these things without consulting the British Admiralty and taking their approval.

RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS IN VEHICLE DEPOT, AVADI

•718. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a periodical retrenchment of workers in the Vehicle Depot at Avadi:

(b) whether Government propose to close the Depot eventually; and

(c) the availability of covered accommodation for parking of vehicles in the Avadi Depot as compared to the availability of such accommodation in other Vehicle Depots in India?