

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND , CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAK): (a) Centra Government Class III and Class IV servants (non-industrial and corresponding industrial categories) serving in the State of West Bengal were granted an advance against pay before the last Durga Puja holidays.

(b) The amount of advance was limited to Rs. 50 in the case of Class III Government servants (including skilled and high-skilled categories of industrial workers) and Rs. 30 in the case of Class IV Government servants (including semi-skilled and unskilled categories of industrial Workers). The advances are recoverable in monthly instalments not exceeding three.

(c) Representations were received requesting recovery of the advance in five monthly instalments instead of three, but after due consideration, Government have come to the conclusion that the request is not justified.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what are the reasons which led the Government to this conclusion that, if the advances are recovered in five instalments instead of three, it will be unjustified?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Ordinarily when such *ad hoc* payments are made, they are recoverable in one instalment but in other cases we have agreed to three, and therefore in this case also we agreed to three instalments.

RETRENCHMENT IN DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS

*409. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retrenchment of civilian employees in Defence Establishments is under consideration by Government and that notices of discharge have been served on some of the workers:

(b) if so, what is the number of such workers who are going to be discharged; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to provide them with alternative employment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible, at this stage, to indicate the exact number.

(c) There already exists a scheme under which personnel retrenched in one Defence establishment, can be absorbed in other Defence establishments against existing vacancies, during their notice period.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know when the retrenchment of staff declared surplus is going to be put into effect?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I expect that by about March 1956 they will be retrenched.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it a fact that the All India Defence Employees Federation have submitted various suggestions to the Government that, if the capacity of the ordnance factories is utilised to the full and if the Government implements this policy of achieving self-sufficiency in Defence items, instead of importing them from abroad, then all these employees can be absorbed and utilised in the Defence installations?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Yes, they did submit a representation but we did not agree with that. It is not possible to absorb the whole lot of them, because the work-load has decreased. But we are, as I said in my reply, doing everything that is possible to absorb them in other Defence installations and even in other Ministries if vacancies are there.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I want to know the total number of workers declared surplus by different Defence establishments.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: As it is it is very difficult to give the exact number at the moment, but we expect

that it will be in the neighbourhood of about six to seven thousand.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I understand that this retrenchment is being put into effect on the basis of the findings of the Ordnance Reorganisation Committee and, if so, may I know whether the Government will publish that report or at least the relevant portions of it?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: That report is of a secret nature and it cannot be published.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to take it that even portions of it cannot be published or laid on the Table of the House?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: If the hon. Member wants any particular information about any particular subject, and if he puts a question, it will be considered and due answer given.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: May I know what compensation will be paid to these retrenched personnel?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: They will naturally be entitled only to those benefits which are in the contract.

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

410. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under consideration by the Government for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan for expansion of its activities for preservation, reconstruction, restoration and renovation of existing ancient monuments, and for exploration and excavation of ancient sites which may yield remains of historical importance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): Yes. Sir.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the amount that has been provided for? Sir

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Rs. 1 crore.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the total amount of budget provided for in the Second Plan for the Education Department?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The plan has not yet been finalized.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Just now he said that there is a Plan.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: This is proposed.

GRIEVANCES OF THE M.E.S. EMPLOYEES

*411. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the grievances of the M.E.S. employees, as expressed in the resolutions of the M.E.S. Workers' Union at a recent conference in Lucknow;

(b) if so, what are the main grievances expressed therein; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) No communication has been received by Government so far.

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

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But has the attention of the Government been drawn to the Resolutions passed by the Annual Conference of the M.E.S. workers in relation to their main major demands?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No communication has been received—that is the answer.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn in any other way?