

REVISED PENSION RATES FOR THE ARMY RESERVISTS

*63. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recently revised the pension rates of Army Reservists; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the revision?

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

(b) In the context of the general enhancement of pensions of Armed Forces personnel announced last year, Government considered it necessary to enhance the rates of pensions of Army Reservists who form an important part of the Defence Organization.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: May I know, Sir, what is the difference? How much increment has been given?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Formerly, they used to get Rs. 7 per month or a gratuity of Rs. 300 in lieu thereof. But now the terms are that after seven years' colour service and eight years' reserve, they will get Rs. 10 per month or a gratuity of Rs. 750, which is more than double; for ten years' colour service and ten years' reserve, Rs. 11 per month or Rs. 900 as gratuity in lieu thereof; for twelve years' colour service and eight years' reserve, Rs. 12 per month pension or Rs. 1,000 as gratuity in lieu.

CASES OF "HEAVY REJECTIONS" IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES DURING THE YEARS 1952-53 AND 1953-54

*64. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of "heavy rejections" in Ordnance Factories during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 corresponding to the two cases of "heavy

rejections" noted in the Audit Report on the Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for 1951-52; and

(b) when the Audit Reports for 1952-53 and 1953-54 are likely to be published?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) Eight cases of heavy rejections in Ordnance Factories have been reported for the year 1952-53. The information in respect of the year 1953-54 is not yet available.

(b) The Audit Report on the Appropriation Accounts and Commercial Appendix for 1952-53 is expected to be presented to the House during the current session and that for 1953-54 during the year 1955.

DR. R. P. DUBE: What is the amount of percentage of rejection in 1952-53?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It is a very tricky question. Does he mean the percentage of rejection of the total production of the Ordnance Factories, or of the particular items?

DR. R. P. DUBE: You have given it in the last report that it is 24 per cent. I wanted to know the percentage in 1952-53.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: 24 per cent., that is of a particular item of production, not of the entire production of the Ordnance Factories. Ordnance Factories have been producing articles worth crores of rupees, and only in eight items there have been rejections worth Rs. 10,42,000, and the total value of those eight items was Rs. 38,00,000.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Rs. 38 lakhs?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The total value of the articles in which rejections have occurred was Rs. 38,67,000, and out of this the rejections were worth Rs. 10,42,000. This, compared with the value of the total annual production of the Ordnance Factories of about Rs. 30 crores would be quite small.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Rs 38 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs?

SHRI A C GUHA. Yes, that is the proportion in these particular items. In the case of five of these items, it was a sort of experimentation.

DR. R P. DUBE What was the cause of the rejection?

SHRI A. C GUHA: These rejections have occurred in three factories. In the type of work in which these factories are engaged, such rejections are possible and are likely to have occurred. Out of these eight items, as I have stated, five items were taken up as experiments. That was the reason for the rejections

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN What are the items in which these rejections have taken place?

SHRI A. C GUHA One item is steel bloom; two items mortar bomb and hand grenade bomb bodies and five items tin foil, aluminium and brass and strips, etc. In all, they make eight items.

DR. R. P. DUBE. Rejections were there in steel blooms last time also in 1951-52?

SHRI A C GUHA: Maybe, I am not sure

DR. R. P. DUBE. Why were they again rejected?

SHRI A C GUHA. Until experimentation is completed, the factory will have to carry on the work and rejections are likely to take place

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SPECIALISED RAW MATERIALS FOR THE ORDNANCE FACTORIES

*65. DR. R P DUBE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Ordnance Factories for attaining self-sufficiency in specialised raw materials like steel sheets, tinned plates, etc.;

(b) whether idle facilities in Ordnance Factories exist which could be utilised for the manufacture of such items, and

(c) the amount of under-absorbed fixed overheads in Ordnance Factories in 1952-53 and 1953-54 as against Rs. 131 lakhs in 1951-52 mentioned at page 6 of the Audit Report on the Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for 1951-52?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA):

(a) The Ordnance Factories Organization is generally planned to produce munitions from raw materials provided from industry or import. The Metal and Steel Factory, Ishapore and the Ordnance Factory, Kanpur produce different types of steel but not steel plates or tinned sheets which are produced by Tatas and SCOB. Government plans for expansion of steel industry include Ordnance Factories requirements in its several specialised varieties.

(b) As explained at (a) above there is no scope for absorbing idle facilities in Ordnance Factories by manufacture of raw materials but in the production of manufactured articles particularly consumer goods, effective efforts are made to utilize surplus capacity to the maximum.

(c) The amount of unabsorbed fixed overheads in Ordnance Factories in 1952-53 and 1953-54 were Rs. 1,41,66,565 and Rs. 1,98,13,899 respectively

DR. R. P. DUBE. It is increasing, why?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA Yes, there has been slight increase because the Defence work-load on the factories has been going down.

DR. R. P. DUBE: How much of it is being utilised for civilian trades?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Every effort is being made to utilise the surplus capacity for manufacturing civil-