

*349. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3034-3035.]

*350. [Transferred to the List of Unstarred Questions as No. 350-A. For answer, vide cols. 3062-3063.]

FLAG DAY COLLECTIONS

*351. SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected on the Armed Forces Flag Day in 1953;

(b) the amount allotted to each state out of the money so collected; and

(c) the number of ex-servicemen who got benefit from this fund in that year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) A sum of Rs. 5,52,960-14-3 was collected, according to the information received up-to-date.

(b) The collections have not yet been disbursed. Allocations to States will be made later in the year.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, what kind of benefit do they usually get from this fund?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The collections are distributed to various subordinate formations by the Service Headquarters. After that money is placed in the benevolent fund for each of the three Services.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Will the Government think it desirable to keep some free T.B. beds with this fund?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The Defence Ministry have by voluntary contributions raised a separate fund for reserving some T.B. beds.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, whether the money collected and distributed is audited?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Yes, the accounts are audited along with the benevolent fund;.

APPEAL BEFORE LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*352. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an appeal against the Sastri Award is pending before the Labour Appellate Tribunal;

(b) whether a representation has been made by Government to the Tribunal as a party to the dispute; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government appeared in the proceeding before the Appellate Tribunal in exercise of its right under section 13 of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950.

(c) The Government did so in the interest of the development of banking in rural areas. The application of Government submitted that banking in rural and semi-urban areas having a population of and below 30,000 should be excluded from the scope of the Award for a period of two years in case of existing branches and offices and for a period of 4 years in case of new ones.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know when the Government is going to implement this Award fully?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to implement this Award fully? That is the question.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Which Award?

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: The Sastri Award.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says the Sastri Award.