

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Units of the Ambala Sub Division area have complained that children of their units are attending the schools very late on account of the withdrawal of this facility?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: This has not come to the notice of the Government because no complaints have been received by us so far. But, as I said, subject to those conditions transport is available.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Government consider the question of again providing transport facilities to the students?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: If it falls within the rules, yes certainly.

DESERTION AND SUICIDE CASES IN THE ARMED FORCES

*329. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of desertions and suicides in the Armed Forces during the past four years yearwise; and

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the causes for such desertions and suicides?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to disclose the information. But it may be stated that the number is not such as warrants a detailed inquiry.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Why is it not in the public interest to disclose this information, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is for them to decide.

ARMY AIRCRAFTS FOR CIVILIANS

•388. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a Dakota Aircraft was used for transporting the Governor of Bombay from Delhi to Bombay in January 1953;

(b) if so, whether he was entitled to the use of Army Aircraft, or he had to pay the charges due; and

(c) what are the rules governing the use of Army Aircraft for civilian purposes?

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

(b) & (c). He is not entitled to the use of the aircraft as of right but the rules provide for the use of the aircraft in such cases under appropriate sanction. They permit the travel by air in Service aircraft of a civilian officer in Government service if

(a) the journey is on duty;

(b) there are no alternative means of travel or the urgency alone justifies air travel; and

(c) that the flight is not undertaken for the sole purpose of carrying the civilian passenger.

In such cases, no charges are payable by the officer himself.

Ordinarily, prior sanction of the Government of India is necessary for special or passenger flights.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether in this particular case there was no alternative Air Service for the journey?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: At "the moment that the flight was undertaken there was no alternative service and due to the urgency of the Governor having to be in Bombay it was permitted.