

(d) One. A suitable and experienced Indian officer is not available at present to replace him.

(e) The terms of service for Indian and non-Indian officers are uniform except that non-Indians receive an overseas allowance of £ 25 to £ 30 p.m.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : The hon. Minister said that at present a suitable and experienced

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The hon. Member is not audible, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : The hon. Minister said that one English officer who is overaged is kept on because no suitable Indian is available. May I know from the table that he has provided here, to which category this officer belongs ? There are so many categories here and so I am not able to find this out from the table given.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The one officer who has been retained after attaining the age of retirement is the Deputy Director General of Ordnance Factories. He has been in the Government of India's service for a very long time in a highly technical post. He is being retained for a further period of three years.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : May I know when the Director General of Ordnance Factories is an Indian and there are six Assistant Directors General of Ordnance Factories, why Government should think that no suitable Indian is available for this post of Deputy Director General of Ordnance Factories ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, that is a matter of argument. The Government of India after thoroughly considering all these aspects have thought it necessary to keep this officer for some time more.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : For how long is it proposed to keep this officer ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : As I have said, the extension has been given for a period of three years.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How long does the Government propose to keep these 42 non-Indian officers in the ordnance depots ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : They are being gradually replaced. Their number has come down considerably, and as and when our officers are trained, and are able to take these jobs, they will be replaced.

DISMANTLING OF A PLANT IN AN ORDNANCE FACTORY

*271. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chamber process sulphuric acid plant in an ordnance factory has been dismantled and condemned ;

(b) if so, what was the reason for dismantling the plant and whether experts were consulted before dismantling it ;

(c) whether Government were satisfied that this plant could no longer be used ;

(d) whether any plant has been imported to replace the plant so condemned ; if so, from where it has been imported, and at what cost ; and

(e) whether any foreign expert has been requested to work on the new plant ; if so, (i) who is that expert, (ii) what is his salary, and (iii) what are his qualifications ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant was dismantled because of certain inherent disadvantages and difficulties in its working, and the necessity of a more modern

and efficient plant. The decision to dismantle the plant was taken by the Ministry of Defence in consultation with the Director General of Ordnance Factories and his technical advisers.

(c) Yes, Sir ; the plant could not be used either economically or with safety.

(d) The old plant was replaced by two contact plants for the manufacture of oleum and sulphuric acid purchased from U. K. at a cost of less than Rs. 7 lakhs.

(e) No, Sir.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How old was this plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I could not give the age of this plant ; but I can say that it was thoroughly examined both by our technical experts and by the Chemical Examiner of the Government of India, who came to the conclusion that the plant had outlived its utility and that it should be replaced.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : Before this was dismantled may I know whether it was advertised for sale ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know. I think it was in a very bad condition ; how it was disposed of I don't know.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : What was the cost of the original factory that had been established, the cost of this chamber process sulphuric acid plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The plant was there for decades and it is very difficult today to give the cost of that plant, at the time when it was installed.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How much did Government realise from the disposal of this plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : As I said, I am not aware how it was disposed of.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : What was the written-down value of the plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Pardon ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He asks, what was the written-down or book value of the plant.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I am not aware of the value. I can only say that the plant was very old. Probably according to the usual calculation system it might have had no book value at all.

HOUSING OF ARMY UNITS

*272. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to make good the loss of permanent accommodation for Army units left behind in Pakistan ;

(b) whether Government propose to utilise any of the cantonments or other accommodation used by the former Indian States Forces for the purpose ; and

(c) whether Government propose to build new cantonments to meet the defence requirements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) A detailed survey of the entire permanent accommodation in this country of the pre-war Army as well as the accommodation taken over from the erstwhile States Forces is being carried out. The total accommodation is likely to be short of requirements and, therefore, projects have been initiated to make up the deficiency.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.