

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS) : (a) In the interests of security, it would not be desirable to state the total number of voters among our Armed Forces.

(b) Ignoring a few States in which the information asked for is not available, 30.4% of the eligible voters among our Armed Forces exercised their franchise at the last general elections to the House of the People. The corresponding figure for elections to the State Legislative Assemblies was 31 per cent.

BREACH OF DISCIPLINE

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

(a) what is the procedure for taking action against the personnel of the Armed Forces accused of breach of discipline ;

(b) under what conditions they are kept when they are imprisoned ; and

(c) whether they are allowed to consult legal advisers to defend their cases if prosecutions are launched against them ?

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

(a) By court-martial or summary trial.

(b) Imprisonment in military custody is undergone in the unit quarter guard. Prisoners are given a certain amount of hard labour and are also given instructions in professional subjects. Persons sentenced to more than three months are committed to civil jails where they serve their term of imprisonment under conditions existing in civil prisons.

(c) Yes.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

(a) what are the rules governing the use by Army Officers of the Army

Medical Services for members of their families ;

(b) how many instances of such use are on record during the past five years ?

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

(a) Families of officers are entitled to treatment as out-patients or at their quarters or in a military hospital if accommodation is available and have to pay hospital stoppages at Rs. 2/8/- per day in case of wife and children between 12 to 18 years. Children below 12 years are charged half the rates.

(b) Figures for the years 1949 and 1950 are available which are indicated below :

Year	Wives	Children
1949 . . .	1,687	909
1950 . . .	1,860	1,118

Figures for 1946 to 1948 are not readily available.

RELEASE CLAIMS OF STATE FORCES

70. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of release-claims of personnel of the Hyderabad State Forces (both of Indian State Forces and non-Indian State Forces) which have been settled up-to-date.

(b) the number of cases (both of Indian State Forces and non-Indian State Forces) pending for a period—

(i) of more than 12 months,

(ii) between 9 and 12 months,

(iii) between 3 to 6 months, and

(iv) between 1 month to 3 months ; and

(c) who is the final authority for settling the claims of Indian State Forces and non-Indian State Forces personnel respectively ?