

Works Company of West Germany for manufacturing take-off aeroplanes of verticle type in India and for import of technical know-how in this connection;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

BENEFIT, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF RETIRED JAWANS

1473. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of benefit to which retired jawans of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force are entitled;

(b) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate retired Jawans and provide them adequate employment;

(c) the number of cases of retired jawans who are dead or missing pending with Government since the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken to provide immediate relief to the families of the jawans referred to in part (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Personnel below officer rank who become non-effective after completing 15 years or more of qualifying service (20 years or more in the case of Non-combatants Enrolled), are eligible for a service pension. The rates of service pension vary according to the rank, total length of service and the pay group of the individual on the date of becoming non-effective. The rates of service pension for the highest and the lowest pay groups on completion of the prescribed years of qualifying service for each rank are given in Statement 'A' attached [See Appendix LXV, Annexure No. 115.]

(b) Details are given in Statement 'B' attached [See Appendix LXV, Annexure No. 116.]

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the pension paying authorities and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

1474. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disarmament Conference in the month of July, 1968 has decided to give priority to the ban on underground nuclear testing;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) when this ban will be put into force?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. No decision has yet been taken by the ENDC in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

INDIA'S FINANCIAL LOSS DUE TO CLOSURE OF THE SUEZ CANAL

1475. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial loss to Indian interests as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal;

(b) the steps taken to minimise the losses; and

(c) whether there is any possibility for reopening the Canal in the near future?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) While it is not possible to estimate the loss, India is incurring an additional expenditure of an estimated 22.5 million Rupees per month because of the higher freight charges which have to be paid for our imports from the West. Since statistics of freight paid on exports are not maintained, it is not possible to assess the additional expenditure incurred on our exports.