

negotiated for and which are not the latest?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Whatever model is satisfactory to us will be manufactured.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know why these planes should be shipped and they do not come by air?

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is now over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Rocket Launching Centre in Kerala

*374. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to locate India's first Rocket Launching Centre in Kerala;

(b) whether any site has been selected for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the proposal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The site is near Altipur, south of Thumba and a few miles north of Trivandrum.

(c) The site is on the geomagnetic equator which is highly significant in the investigation of the earth's magnetic field and the ionosphere. Experimental studies of a wide range of atmospheric phenomena will be carried out by means of sounding rockets which will be launched from the Sounding Rocket Launching Facility. Sounding rockets provide a very useful tool for such studies and indeed the only means of making direct measurements at levels between 30 and 200 kilometers, i.e. above the ceiling of balloons and below the operational altitude of satellites.

Welfare of Families of Jawans

{ **Shri Eswara Reddy:**
*384. { **Shri Bishanchander Seth:**
 { **Shri Y. S. Chaudhary:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the welfare of families of Jawans wounded or killed while defending country's borders;

(b) whether the Centre has issued any directives to the States in this connection; and

(c) if so, the broad details thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) The following benefits are available for the welfare of families of Jawans wounded or killed:

(1) Wounded (and sick) personnel while in hospital receive their normal pay and allowances throughout the period of hospitalisation which is treated as duty. They do not have to pay any hospital charges.

(2) Dependents of personnel killed in action get the following benefits:

(i) A special family allowance equal to the family allotment or the special family pension (which varies from Rs. 20/- p.m. for a sepoy to Rs. 75/- p.m. for a Sub-Major) and children's allowance (which varies from Rs. 5/-p.m. to Rs. 7/-p.m.) whichever is more favourable, is admissible for two months. Thereafter, a special allowance equal to the family pension and children's allowance, where admissible, is given for a further period of two months.

- (ii) A special death gratuity, which varies from Rs. 250/- for a sepoy to Rs. 200/- for a Subedar Major, is also paid immediately on receipt of the report of the death and particulars of the next-of-kin from the Record Offices.
- (iii) A sum of Rs. 75/- per month in respect of JCOs and Rs. 50/- per month in respect of ORs. and NCsE is given from the Army Relief Fund (which is fed from the National Defence Fund), for a period of four months.
- (iv) A provisional family pension called the 'Pending Enquiry Award' is normally sanctioned in cases where the final pension cannot be sanctioned early to the dependents of JCOs, ORs or NCsE.
- (3) Personnel who are invalided from service on account of disability which is attributable to or aggravated by military service and is assessed at 20 per cent or over, get a disability pension. No disability pension is admissible when the disability is assessed at less than 20 per cent initially. But a Service pension or service gratuity is admissible according to the length of service rendered. No gratuity is ordinarily admissible for less than 5 years' service. But where the disability (though less than 20 per cent.) is connected with field service, a special gratuity equal to two months' pay is granted.

(b) and (c). All State Governments have been requested to ensure that families/dependents of Servicemen

and their property, etc. are safeguarded whilst they are away from their homes and that provision is made for education, stipends and employment to family members and dependents in the case of servicemen who are killed in action, so that the family does not suffer too much by the absence of the bread-earner. In the matter of educational concessions, State Governments have been asked to grant free education to children of all combatant Armed Forces personnel, full scholarships, inclusive of boarding charges to a substantial number of their children and continuation of the education of children of personnel who are killed in action. It has been recommended to the State Governments for consideration that surplus lands for agricultural purposes may be allotted to dependents of personnel who are killed in action. Steps are being taken to ensure that no difficulties are faced by the Jawans or their families in realising rent from their tenants or sub-tenants.

Wage Board for Iron and Steel

*385. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all the steel plants have not yet agreed to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board for iron and steel with regard to interim relief;
- (b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation; and
- (c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) No. Action is being taken to implement the recommendation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.