

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Minister may kindly refer him to a book available in the Library or place a copy of it in the Library

**Dr K. L. Shrimali:** Very well, Sir

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Can the hon Minister give an idea as to the total number of orphans and unattached children benefited from the State? If he could not give the number, can he give the number of institutions which are aided by the Social Welfare Board?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** The Board, since its inception, has assisted 292 institutions and sanctioned Rs 25,31,945

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it not a fact that in the States, orphans and unattached children are not allowed to live in the Homes when they reach the age of 18? If so, when the hon Minister says that the Social Welfare Board has taken charge of these persons, may I know whether the Social Welfare Board takes charge of further education and maintenance of these boys and girls?

**Mr Speaker:** The man should continue to be an orphan even after 18?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** This is a question with regard to orphans and unattached children

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know the age limit

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** I do not have the age-limit. I think it varies from institution to institution throughout the country

#### Soldiers' Homes in Punjab

\*970. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to augment the number of Soldiers' Homes in Punjab, and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to materialise?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) Yes

(b) It is not possible to indicate when the proposed Homes will be opened as it depends on several factors. Apart from the availability of land, its acquisition, preparation of plans and estimates for the buildings etc, which would take time, new construction is at present, as far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, limited to works of an essential character, which is unavoidable

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know how many Soldiers' Homes are there at present in the Punjab and how much money is spent on them per year?

**Sardar Majithia:** There are 19 Soldiers' Homes in the Punjab

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know whether they are judiciously distributed all over the State or there are some in one area and none in the other?

**Sardar Majithia:** I do not know about that. If you like, I will read out the names: Ferozepur, Gurgaon, Ludhuana, Hoshiarpur, Rohtak, Kangra, Hissar

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon Minister going to read all the 19?

**Sardar Majithia:** Only 19

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. Member is well aware of Punjab. He only wants to know whether all are in one area or they are in all areas.

**Sardar Majithia:** I think they are well distributed

**Mr. Speaker:** That is all

**Shri Keshava:** May I know if this is a special feature confined only to the Punjab or is it extended to other parts also?

**Sardar Majithia:** This is all over the country. Madras, Andhra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bombay, Mysore, Orissa, Assam, Madhya Pradesh are included