

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

War Surplus Depots

*195. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many war surplus depots like Dehu Road are there in India;

(b) the reasons for delay in their disposal;

(c) the steps taken or considered to expedite the disposal of serviceable stores; and

(d) the annual cost of maintaining these depots?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) There are no surplus depots as such either at Dehu Road or at any other place in India.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A system of annual provision reviews, based on the calculation of overall liabilities and balancing them with all-India uncommitted stocks held in depots, including those on order, is in existence. Any deficiencies or surpluses are determined in consultation with the competent authorities. The surpluses revealed are declared to the agencies responsible for the disposal of these stores. In order to ensure speedy disposal of surpluses, a liaison Officer has been appointed, who maintains very close liaison between the depots and those agencies. A certain amount of surplus stores are, however, always held, as declaration of surpluses and their actual disposal are continuous processes.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Central Evaluation Organization

*206. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 247 on the 21st November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether a Central Evaluation Organisation for assessing work done for Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes has since been set up; and

(b) the progress of work, if any, done so far by the organisation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). One post of Officer on Special Duty and 9 posts of Assistant Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have since been created, in addition to the existing 7 posts of Regional Assistant Commissioner, which will now be designated as those of Assistant Commissioner. This entire establishment, with the exception of the Officer on Special Duty who will function in the Ministry of Home Affairs, will be under the Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Selections for appointment have been made for the post of Officer on Special Duty and 7 out of the 9 posts of Assistant Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Officer on Special Duty and one Assistant Commissioner have joined already. It is expected that the remaining 6 Assistant Commissioners also will be at their posts shortly after they have been released by the respective State Governments under whom they are serving at present.

Soldiers' Homes in Rajasthan

*208. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to augment the number of Soldiers' Homes in Rajasthan and start one such Home in the Bikaner Division; and

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

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The Administrative Committee of Rajasthan Post War Reconstruction Fund has already approved the proposal to augment the number of Soldiers' Home in the