

standing amount of the claim is allowed.

(d) No.

Dr. M. M. Das: In reply to part (d) of my question the hon. Minister has said: No. May I know the reasons why crop compensations are not being paid to the owners of the agricultural lands before final settlement of these claims and payment is made?

Sardar Majithia: Once the property is taken over by Government, then the question of compensation for crops does not arise.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether in that case Government is prepared to pay interest on the value determined by Government for the time between the final settlement of the claims and the actual payment of the money?

Sardar Majithia: That is already being done. As I said, in certain cases of hardship, a reasonable amount of interest is already given.

Dr. M. M. Das: In view of the fact that about ten years have passed since these lands and buildings were acquired by Government and that compensation has not been paid to these claimants, may I know whether Government is aware of the sufferings and dissatisfaction of the people due to the non-settlement of the claims and the non-payment of the amounts?

Sardar Majithia: Government is fully aware of that. But, as I have already stated in answer to part (b) of the question, sometimes the conditions are beyond our control and litigation starts and it naturally takes time. If only the claimants do not go into litigation I think they will be very much happier.

Shri T. N. Singh: Most of the cases of real hardship go to arbitration, as far as I know. As such, may I know the reasons for delay in those cases and why they are pending for eight years?

Sardar Majithia: I have already given in detail the causes for the delay. In certain cases the assessments are

to be made by the Collectors, they have to be checked by the Audit authorities, objections may be raised, and they have to be satisfied. It does take time.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी वह कारण बताए कि जिन के सबब से इस मामले में देर हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कब तक आशा की जाती है कि यह सारा मामला तय हो जायगा ?

Sardar Majithia: That is a question which is very difficult to reply. For instance, in some cases the claimants are not traceable. As soon as they are traced the questions will be settled. But every endeavour is made to settle these claims as early as possible; and I hope that by October they should be through.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कम्पनसेशन के कितने केसेज अब तक पेंडिंग हैं ?

Sardar Majithia: I have already replied to that in part (a). It is 1,968.

Dr. M. M. Das: In giving the causes for this undue delay the hon. Minister has mentioned the loss of the relevant records as one reason. May I know what will be done in those cases where the relevant records have been lost—because it is not the fault of the claimants that these records have been lost.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): I wish to promise to the House to take particular care to see that all these cases are speedily disposed of. I was just inspired by this question. I shall have these investigated and also see if some officers could be deputed to decide the cases as quickly as possible.

PURCHASE OF "HUNT" CLASS DESTROYERS

*134. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government of India recently purchased three "Hunt" class destroyers from the U.K.?

(b) On what terms were these destroyers purchased?

(c) What is the cost involved?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Three 'Hunt' class frigates have been obtained on loan from the Admiralty.

(b) (1) India to be responsible for any work required to be done on the ships before taking them over, including any equipment installed to meet her needs.

(2) The standard of maintenance and refits, and the periods between refits, to be the same as for ships with the Royal Navy.

(3) Any alterations and additions required by India to be given effect to only subject to Admiralty approval and at India's expense.

(4) Vessels to be returned, with stores in as good a condition as when loaned, fair wear and tear excepted.

(5) In the event of loss, compensation to be agreed upon would be payable.

(6) Loan to be for three years in the first instance, subject to extension by agreement, but vessels to be returned on demand in an emergency.

(c) An expenditure of about Rs. 90 lakhs has been incurred in the modernisation and equipment of these ships.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know when these ships were put into commission and if they have become obsolete or not?

Shri Tyagi: These frigates were built and launched between 1939 and 1942 and they are in a good condition of repair.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to certain press reports to the effect that at least one of these vessels had to undergo—and perhaps is still undergoing—refitting and modernisation in a Merseyside shipyard?

Shri Tyagi: Sir, some modernisation of all these three ships has been effected.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: Is the hon. Minister in a position to give a categorical assurance to the House that though the name betrays otherwise, these vessels will be kept in the same perfunct operative class which the Prime Minister defined as 'excellent'.

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid, Sir, I could not understand the meaning of 'excellent'... (*Interruption*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order. Order. It a question is not self-explanatory it need not be pursued by hon. Members.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know, Sir, if the temporary acquisition of these ships makes them liable also for naval exercises along with the British Navy in the Mediterranean or elsewhere?

Shri Tyagi: The exercise has no relation with the British Naval ships. These ships have been got because we used to send quite a number of our trainees to U.K. for the purposes of naval training. And now U.K. after some time felt that they could not cope up with the large demand for training of naval personnel from India. Therefore, these ships have been loaned to us so that training can be given to our boys here in India.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: May I know, Sir, what would be the cost to the Government to purchase these three ships?

Shri Tyagi: They have not been purchased, Sir. I am afraid, I haven't got the figures.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir since these three ships are of the old type, modern training, will it still be given by the British Navy?

Shri Tyagi: Yes, Madam. If need be, specialised training can be given.

I am sorry, I ought to have used the word 'Sir'.

Shri Joachim Alva: Before undertaking the colossal expenditure of Rs. 90 lakhs on modernising the vessels,

as the hon. Minister stated, did the Ministry consult knowledgeable impartial specialists who could certify that the destroyers were swift, mobile and efficient, capable of attack and counter-attack in times of war and not just old, discarded junks of the British Navy?

Shri Tyagi: These ships are taken over for the purpose of imparting training to our trainees in the Navy. These ships are quite fit and before taking them over, due inspection was made and our experts in India had certified that the ships were worth having.

EDUCATION OF SERVICEMEN'S CHILDREN

*135. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware of the difficulty faced by servicemen in educating their children due to frequent transfers from one linguistic area to another?

(b) Have Government any scheme or proposal to enable the children to continue their studies uninterrupted by the transfer of their parents?

(c) If so, what are the details of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(i) State Governments have been requested to issue instructions to all Government and aided schools to relax the restriction imposed on the admission of children of service personnel during the middle of the terms and to admit them at any time during the year irrespective of the fact whether they have been registered or not.

(ii) State Governments had also been requested to exempt the children of the Defence Service personnel from studying the regional language compulsorily in schools where it is not used as a medium of instruction. The reactions of all the States are not yet known. The Governments of Madras, Mysore, Rajasthan and Travancore-Cochin have already agreed to this.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme applies only to the officers' children or to the soldiers' children also?

Sardar Majithia: It refers to all the children including the J.C.Os. and N.C.Os. and other ranks.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether there are any other free boarding schools for the children of the military personnel run by the Defence Department?

Sardar Majithia: There are no such schools but the hon. Member is perhaps referring to the King George's Schools situated at Nowgong, Ajmer, Belgaum, and Bangalore. There you have 150 seats reserved for the children of service personnel and the other 150 seats are reserved for civilians.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know, Sir, if the Defence Department has entered into negotiations with the schools not only to allow them to enter a school but also to give them boarding facilities as otherwise it serves no useful purpose?

Sardar Majithia: I have not got the information on that question, but I will certainly make inquiries from schools controlled by the Defence Department and let the hon. Member know.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could I know the number of children of servicemen who are affected by the transfer of servicemen themselves?

Sardar Majithia: I am afraid, Sir, I haven't got that information.

FAIR WAGES COMMITTEE

*136. **Shri B. C. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Fair Wages Committee appointed by the Government of India have been implemented in case of workers of Gazipur Opium Factory?

(b) If so, do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement showing comparative wage scales of the labourers before and