

Shifting of Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, Ahmednagar to Avadi (Madras)

54. Shri Anantrao V. Patil: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Department has taken a decision to shift Vehicles Research and Development Establishment from Ahmednagar to Avadi (Madras):

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether a large number of employees will be displaced due to the shifting?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Heavy Vehicles Factory has been built at Avadi for the manufacture of fighting vehicles. In 1960 when a decision on the location of the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi was being taken, it was also decided that the R&D portion of the then Technical Development Establishment (Vehicles) should be located at Avadi to facilitate design and development work connected with fighting vehicles. The priority tasks on this given by the Services can only be completed quickly by very close and constant collaboration with the Heavy Vehicles Factory.

(c) The total strength of officers and staff is about 700, including 300 Class IV and industrial category of employees. Every effort will be made to absorb as many of the Class IV and industrial staff in nearby Defence installations in Maharashtra, if they are not willing to move to Avadi. The rest of the staff (about 400) who belong to Class I, II & III are liable for services anywhere in India. Even here the staff will not be moved all at once but in suitable phases. About 250 members of the staff will be moved in two phases by the end of this year. The balance will be moved later.

Assistance from UNESCO for Mass Communication

55. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been received from UNESCO for mass communication recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it is proposed to be utilised?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During 1965-66, the UNESCO assigned a Consultant in Mass Communication to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication with effect from June 1966 for a period of one year. In addition, they have agreed to give the Institute equipment worth Rs 15,000 during this period. A part of this equipment has already arrived and the rest is expected in due course. The equipment which the Institute has already received consists mostly of audio-visual and photographic equipment, viz. Projectors, Public Address System, Silk Screen Equipment, Cameras etc. The equipment is being utilized as aid in imparting training in practical skills required in the field of Mass Communication.

For 1967-68, the UNESCO has agreed to assign to the Institute an expert in Mass Communication and also to give equipment worth \$20,000.

Family Accommodation for J.C.Os. and O.Rs.

56. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cent percent of the Officers and J.C.Os. in the Army are entitled to keep their families with them when posted in peace areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Other Ranks are entitled to keep their families in peace areas;