

**Declaration of Civilian Area of
Ranikhet as Municipal Area**

154. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare the civilian area of Ranikhet town as a municipal areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

I.A.F. Plane crash in Agra on 23-2-80

155. SHRI FAROOQ ABDULA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 46 Defence personnel were killed in Agra due to one of the worst disasters in the history of Indian Air Force para-dropping exercises on 23rd February, 1980;

(b) whether Government are considering to replace the 'Fair Child Packet' aircraft which is one of the oldest aircraft in the world; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) An unfortunate and tragic aircrash occurred in Agra on 22nd February 1980 in which 47 Defence personnel were killed.

(b) and (c). Government have decided to replace the existing transport fleet including the Packets which will be phased out progressively as per schedule.

Pension benefits enjoyed by Ex-servicemen and improvements desired therein

156. SHRI P. J. KURLAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different pension benefits and other amenities at present enjoyed by ex-servicemen;

(b) have the Government received any representations for improving them in view of the rising cost of living;

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) details of the additional/improved benefits, if any, proposed to be provided to the ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH). (a): The following pension benefits and other amenities to ex-servicemen are available:—

(1) Service officers and personnel below officer rank who have rendered a minimum qualifying service of 20 years and 15 years respectively, are entitled to retiring pension, whereas those whose qualifying service is less than the above limits but is at least 10 years in the case of commissioned officers and 5 years in the case of personnel below officer rank, are entitled to service gratuity.

(2) Individuals who are medically boarded out of service are granted disability or invalid pension/gratuity depending upon whether the disability is attributable to service or not.

(2) In addition to relating/disability|invalid pension|gratuity, they are also entitled to death-cum-retirement gratuity at the rate of 1/4th of the emoluments drawn at the time of retirement for each complete half year of service, subject to a maximum of 18-1/2 month's emo-

luments or Rs. 30,000/- whichever is less. Ex-servicemen in receipt of pension are also entitled to relief on pension granted by the Government from time to time.

(4) The other benefits available to ex-servicemen are: reservation in employment, priorities/preferences for employment, concessions in age and educational qualifications for appointment to Group 'C' and 'D' posts, exemption from payment of examination/application fees for recruitment to Class III and Class II (Non-gazetted) posts advertised by Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission, assistance for self-employment, medical and canteen facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). With a view to providing relief to the pensioners for rising cost of living, the Third Pay Commission had recommended that pensioners be granted relief equal to 5 per cent of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 5/- and a maximum of Rs. 25/- per month as and when there is a 16 point increase in the 12-monthly average of the price index. The Government accordingly granted 8 instalments of relief to the pensioners from time to time. The last instalment was sanctioned with effect from 1st December, 1978. The total relief admissible at present is 40 per cent of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 40/- and a maximum of Rs. 200/- p.m. (In the case of those who are in receipt of the revised rates of pension consequent upon the merger of a portion of dearness allowance with pay for retirement benefits, the relief admissible at present, however, is 20 per cent of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 20/- and a maximum of Rs. 100/- per month).

One more instalment of relief on pension has become due with effect from 1st November, 1979 and orders in this regard would be issued shortly.

Pensioners who retired prior to 1st January, 1978 are also entitled to an ad-hoc relief ranging from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 35/- p.m., in addition to the 8 instalments of relief mentioned above.

Naval Ordnance Factory in Kerala

157. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the request made by the Chief Minister of Kerala for the establishment of a Naval Ordnance Factory in Kerala; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). In response to the request received in October, 1977 from the Chief Minister of Kerala, he was informed that there were no plans to set up any new Defence Production Units and that the claims of Kerala State would receive full consideration while considering any future proposals.

Taking over of closed industrial plants factory of Panchla

158. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH,
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for taking over of the closed industrial plants factory of Panchla, in the district of Howrah, West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the proposal; and

(c) what is the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c).—Representations have been received