

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