

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir, Houses have been hired on (i) Perpetual Lease, on year to year basis; (ii) on 'Leave and Licence' basis for duration of stay of sponsoring officers; and (iii) on 'Leave and Licence' basis for 33 months.

Rents are payable in advance only in the case of houses hired for 33 months.

Only a few complaints were received in the past. Generally, all efforts are made to arrange timely payment of rents to the landlords. However, in certain cases delay occurs because of incorrect/delayed submission of pre-receipted bills by landlords. In a few cases, payment of rent is temporarily withheld pending execution of urgently needed repairs/maintenance works by the landlords, under the agreement. Whenever any complaint of late payment of rent is received, the cause of delay is investigated and prompt action is taken to ensure payment to the landlord.

**Border Road Employees of the General Reserve Engineer Force.**

3631. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Border Road employees of the General Reserve Engineers Force were killed while on duty ever since the constitution of the Force;

(b) how many border road employees are now put in jail; what is the reason for that;

(c) whether Government of India are aware of the hardships and harassment suffered by the border road employees; and

(d) whether Government of India propose to appoint a Committee to go through the grievances and problems of the border road employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) The number of G.R.E.F. personnel killed so far due to accidents, landslides, hostile activities, etc., while on duty, is 1,254.

(b) 22 are in jail for the offence of collective insubordination; and 6, for other offences such as murder, desertion from service, misappropriation etc.

(c) and (d). The position has been explained in the answer given to the Unstarred Question No. 1100 on 18.6.1980.

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER TO USQ No. 398 DT. 11-6-80 RE. HIRING CHARGES OF AIR FORCE PLANES DUE FROM MINISTERS AND EX-MINISTERS.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): In the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 398 in the Lok Sabha on 11-6-1980 regarding hiring charges of Air Force planes due from Ministers and ex-Ministers, it was mentioned *inter-alia* that "a sum of Rs. 24,261.60 is due for recovery from Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister, for use of IAF planes in November, 1978". The Prime Minister's office have now informed that on reconsideration of facts regarding the nature of the flight in question that took place on 16th November, 1978, it has been decided to treat the tour of the former Prime Minister as official. Hence no recovery charges are to be made on this account. Air HQs have therefore been advised to treat the bill in question as cancelled. In view of the above decision of the Prime Minister's office, there is no amount due for recovery from the former Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai for use of IAF plans. Hence, the second sentence from the reply may be deleted.

2. Necessary corrective action was initiated as soon as the discrepancies in the reply came to notice on receipt of the revised decision from the Prime Minister's office.