

INVALIDATION OF SERVICE PERSONNEL

261. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that mental ailments have become the biggest factor in the invalidation of Service personnel since the end of World War II?

(b) Is it a fact that approximately one-fifth of the ex-servicemen receiving disablement pensions were invalidated out of service for mental ailments?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for such a high rate of psychiatric casualties?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No.

(b) Collection of reliable statistics on this point will involve considerable time and labour. In a recent analysis of about 75,000 cases of the last war it was found that 18 per cent. of those receiving disability pensions i.e. approximately one-fifth were invalidated due to psychiatric disorders. The proportion has considerably decreased since 1946-47.

(c) The factors responsible for mental disorders are too complex to be detailed but there is no reason to believe that the incidence of mental diseases is higher in the Armed Forces than in the civil population.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES

262. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) lock-outs and (ii) strikes in the ordnance factories between January, 1952 and June, 1953;

(b) the reasons of the strikes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check them?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information is attached. [See Appendix A, annexure No. 70.]

(c) Government examine the demands and grievances of the employees as and when they are represented. All possible steps are taken to redress the genuine grievances of workers and to remove causes for discontentment.

ELECTION PETITIONS

263. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions disposed of by various Election Tribunals in India from 1st February, 1953 till the end of July, 1953;

(b) the number of election petitions pending on the 31st July, 1953; and

(c) the number of fresh election petitions filed during the period 1st January, 1953 to 31st July, 1953?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) 172.

(b) 73.

(c) 14.

COCOANUT CULTIVATION

264. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the total area now under coconut cultivation in the Andaman Islands?

(b) Since when is this cultivation being undertaken?

(c) What was the total annual expenditure on this cultivation during the year 1952-53?

(d) What was the value of the total quantity of produce obtained during the same period?

(e) Is the produce sold by auction?

(f) If not, how is it sold?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Ka:ju): (a) 3,125 acres.

(b) Sometime in 1891.

(c) Government spent Rs. 684/- on about 14 acres directly under the Administration. The expenditure incurred by private individuals or concerns as lessees is not known.