

Yearly Average Number of Retired Military Personnel

2453. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the average number of military personnel who have retired yearly since the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Average annual retirement/release of military personnel during the last three years (1969, 1970 and 1971) was 55,380.

Opening of a Forging Press at H.E.C. Ranchi

2454. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Forging Press has been opened in the Foundry Forge Plant of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi on the 2nd October, 1972;

(b) whether it will be the heaviest Press set up in Asia; if so, its developing capacity; and

(c) whether the Foundry Forge Plant is fully geared to meet the needs of light, medium and heavy forgings of various industries in the country; if so, its main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the absence of data relating to similar presses in other countries of Asia, it is difficult to say whether this is the heaviest Press in Asia. The developing capacity of the Press, when fully equipped with allied equipment and various production aids will be 7,500 tonnes per annum including a capacity of 3,000 tonnes of upsetting of ingots per year.

(c) The Forge Shop of the Foundry Forge Plant is capable of making plain carbon and alloy steel Forgings of shafts in the weight range of 1.5 to 90 MT piece weight and of ring forgings in the weight range of 1 to 30 MT piece weight.

Reopening of Hindalco Office at Calcutta

2455. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Offices of Birla Group of companies in Calcutta, after over two years of closure, have been re-opened;

(b) if so, whether "HINDALCO", a large company under the Birlas with U.S. collaboration, has decided not to re-open its Office in Calcutta, which prior to closure, used to be its Head Office or Main Office; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment of Working Journalists Act

2457. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has recommended the Central Government to suitably amend the Working Journalists Act to make provision of imprisonment against defaulting newspaper proprietors who had failed to implement the Working Journalists Wage Board Award; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI B. K. KHADILKAR): (a). No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.