

(b) The extent to which these mutants could help in augmenting agricultural production can be known only after all the critical tests are completed.

(c) Apart from the breeding of improved varieties with radiations, atomic energy is used in insect sterilization, pest control and disinfection of foodgrains and for the preservation of foodgrain, fruit, fish and other food stuffs.

अम्बरनाथ आयुध कारखाने के निकट खेती वाली भूमि

3766. श्री बसवन्त : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अम्बरनाथ (महाराष्ट्र) में आयुध कारखाने के निकट खेती वाली कोई भूमि है; और

(ख) क्या 'अधिक अनाज उपजाओ अभियान' के अन्तर्गत सहकारी समितियों के माध्यम से इस कारखाने के कर्मचारियों के परिवारों को यह भूमि देने का सरकार का विचार है अथवा उन किसानों की सहकारी समितियों को यह भूमि दी जायेगी, जिनकी भूमि अजित की गई थी ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय में (प्रतिरक्षा उत्पादन) राज्य मंत्री (श्री ल० ना० मिश्र) : (क) जी हां, अम्बरनाथ की दो आर्डेन्स फैक्ट्रियों की सम्पत्तियों के अन्तर्गत ।

(ख) भूमि फैक्टरी के कर्मचारियों की एक सहकारी कृषि समिति को दी गई है। इस समिति ने रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए प्रार्थना-पत्र भेजा हुआ है।

NEWS BROADCAST FOR A.I.R. STATION CALCUTTA ABOUT DEHOARDING OPERATIONS

3767. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 21st September, 1967, All India Radio,

Calcutta Station announced in the course of local news that in dehoarding drive for rice and wheat in Cooch-Bihar, eight thousand quintals of rice were found;

(b) the agency through which the A.I.R., Calcutta Station collected the above information; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the above information was incorrect and was transmitted without ascertaining the true facts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news was supplied by the Director of Information, Government of West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES TO ARMED FORCES

3768. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that direct recruitment to Defence Services is made through the annual examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of at least eight thousand boys who were recommended by the Commission for appointment to the Defence Services as Cadet during the last 15 years, only 14/15 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys were recommended for such appointment; and

(c) if so, the reason for the low percentage in direct recruitment and appointments to Armed Forces of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE DEFENCE MINISTER (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Recruitment of Commissioned Officers to the Armed Forces is made through examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission followed by interviews held by Services Selection Boards in the case of some entries and through interviews

held by Services Selection Boards alone in the case of other entries.

(b) No, Sir; but it is a fact that the proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the officer cadre of the Armed Forces is not large.

(c) The reason is that the selection is made for the available vacancies strictly on the basis of the merit list as recommended by the Selection agencies subject to medical fitness and verification of character and antecedents.

M.Ps. BATCHES TO MEET JAWANS

3769. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to regularly send batches of Members of Parliament to meet Jawans in forward areas; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b). Government have arranged for visits by MPs to forward areas whenever a request in this regard has been received either from MPs or from the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Thus, since August 1967, 33 MPs have visited forward areas in three batches. Subject to operational considerations, the same procedure will continue to be followed.

ELECTION TO CANTONMENT BOARD, JULLUNDUR

3771. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the elections to the Cantonment Board, Jullundur which were scheduled to be held in June, 1967 were cancelled;

(b) whether the date for receiving nominations for the said elections was also cancelled just 24 hours earlier than the time fixed for receiving nomination papers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the elections are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) By notification published on 12th May 1967, the term of office of the elected members due to expire by 30th June 1967 was extended upto 31st March 1968 or the date of notification of election of their successors in office in the official gazette, whichever is earlier.

(b) No, Sir. According to the election programme for holding elections on 16th June 1967, the date for presentation of Nomination papers to the Returning Officer was 16th May 1967. The Notification cancelling the said election programme was issued on 11th May 1967 and published in the Gazette on the 12th May 1967.

(c) To delimit the wards with a view to provide only for single member wards.

(d) Before 31st March 1968 when the extended term of office of the elected members in question is due to expire.

ACQUISITION OF LAND NEAR ITARSI

3772. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to acquire few hundred acres of land for residential quarters near Itarsi;

(b) whether the land is cultivable;

(c) whether Taku village Abadi and surrounding area, which adjoins the acquired area for test range, would also be acquired for residential quarters; and

(d) if not, the reasons why the cultivable land at sixteen miles away is being preferred to adjoining Abadi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) Approximately