

- (iii) To recommend measures for the planned development of aeronautics industry, including Research and Development, so that the country as a whole may become self-sufficient in this field in the shortest possible time and in the most economical manner.

VAMPIRE JET CRASH IN NEFA

2139. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Vampire Jet crashed in Kanent District of NEFA on the 9th February 1968;

(b) if so, the reported deaths as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have made investigations into the causes of the accident; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The accident occurred 4 miles West of Dirang Dzong in Kameng Frontier Division in N.E.F.A.

(b) There was no casualty as a result of the accident.

(c) and (d). In accordance with the Air Force rules, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the accident. Full details will be known when the report of the Court of Inquiry is finalised.

CONDITION OF AFRICAN FAMILIES IN WHITE-RULED COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

2140. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Iranian representative to the Commission on Human Rights, made at the meeting of the Commission on the 7th February, 1968 to the effect that most of the African families in three White ruled countries in Southern Africa lived below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to this statement and the steps taken to secure the essential human rights and proper standard

of living of these people, including any moves through the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Perhaps the Hon. Member is referring to the Report submitted by Mr. Manouchehr Ganji of Iran as the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission.

(b) Our representatives have expressed appreciation of the work done by the Special Rapporteur and would support, as they have always done, all measures proposed in it for bringing pressure to bear on the Government of South Africa to abandon its policies of apartheid and racial discrimination. The Government will also consider at the proper time whether these questions should be raised in other forums of the United Nations, besides the Human Rights Commission.

SAINIK SCHOOLS

2142. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of boys so far admitted in all the Sainik Schools and other similar public schools under the Defence Ministry since their inception;

(b) the number of boys from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes therein; and

(c) the actual number of those Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys who have so far been absorbed in the Army, Navy and the Air Force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENTS OF CADETS

2143. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3768 on the 11th December, 1967 and state :

(a) the total number of boys who were recommended each year by the Union

Public Service Commission for appointment as Cadets during the last 15 years;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Tribes therein;

(c) the total number of boys who were actually appointed year after year during the same period; and

(d) the number of Scheduled Castes and Tribes boys therein ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-255/681.*]

(b) and (d). The information is not available. As already stated by me in reply to part (c) of the earlier Question under reference, selection is made for the available vacancies strictly on the basis of the merit list as recommended by the selection agencies. No separate statistics are, therefore, maintained regarding selection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The labour involved in collecting the information by looking into each individual application received during the last 15 years will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

RESERVATION OF S.C. AND S.T. IN THE RECRUITMENT TO ARMED FORCES

2144. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the recruitment to the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the Constitutional basis for this exception of non-application of the principle of reservation that is followed in making appointments to public services;

(c) whether Armed Forces fall within the purview of public services envisaged in the Constitution for the purposes of reservation; and

(d) if not, the specific provisions justifying their exclusion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (d). According to Article 335 of the Constitution, the claims of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to Services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State. As the need for maintaining the highest standard of efficiency in the Armed Forces is paramount, the policy of Government is that while everything possible must be done to remove all handicaps in the way of members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who wish to enter the Defence Services, there should not be any specific reservations for them.

ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS CIVIL SERVICE

2145. SHRI P. R. THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3606 on the 26th June 1967 and state :

(a) whether the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service has since been constituted to absorb the senior civilian staff in Army, Navy and Air Force Offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government has decided to introduce, with effect from 1-3-1968, a Scheme for constitution of an A.F.H.Q. Civil Service, an A.F.H.Q. Clerical Service and an A.F.H.Q. Stenographers' Service, for civilian employees of the general and Stenographers' cadres of Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter-Service Organisations.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are :—

(i) enhancement of the pay-scale of Civilian Staff Officers, Grade I, to be redesignated Senior Civilian Staff Officers, from Rs. 900-50-1250 to Rs. 1100-50-1400;

(ii) combination of the two existing grades of Civilian Staff Officer, Grade II (Class I—Gazetted; pay scale—Rs. 800-40-1000) and Officer Supervisor (Class II—Gazetted; pay scale Rs. 740-30-830-35-900) into a single grade of