

**Pay and Allowances of Armed Forces Personnel**

\*210. **Shri Randhir Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the personnel of our armed forces are the lowest paid considering the prevalent economic conditions;

(b) whether the Dearness Allowance admissible to the military personnel is half of what is paid to their civilian counterparts in the Central Government;

(c) whether officers are not provided with free boarding, lodging and clothing like other ranks of the armed forces; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve their lot?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) Since full details of pay scales of Armed Forces personnel in other countries are not available, no comparison is possible. According to available information, however, the pay scales of Armed Forces personnel in India are generally not lower than those of the Armed Forces personnel in some of the neighbouring countries.

(b) No, Sir. Commissioned Officers as well as personnel holding honorary ranks of Commissioned officers are given dearness allowance at the same rates as for corresponding civil Government servants.

Other personnel below Commissioned Officer rank (excluding Boys) receive dearness allowance at two-thirds of the rates applicable to Central civilian Government servants, rounded off to the nearest rupee, because they receive free rations, free accommodation and several other concessions in kind.

(c) No, Sir. The position in respect of Commissioned Officers and personnel holding honorary ranks of Commissioned Officers is different from that of other personnel of the Armed Forces. The former are on all-inclusive rates of pay, like civilian Govern-

ment servants; and are therefore not entitled to free boarding, lodging and clothing.

(d) Proposals of varying importance relating to allowances etc. of Defence Services officers and personnel are at different stages of consideration. It is not feasible to give an indication in this respect before Government has examined the issues and taken a decision.

**Facilities for Dalai Lama for going to U.N.**

\*211. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dalai Lama recently requested Government for facilities to proceed to the United Nations in order to present the case of Tibet before the U.N.;

(b) if so, whether the request has been granted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Chemical Warfare and Bombing in Vietnam**

\*212. **Shri E. K. Nayanar:**  
**Shri C. K. Chakrapani:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continued chemical warfare and bombing of the civilian areas in Vietnam by the United States forces;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have conveyed their feeling to the U.S. Government?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) Government are aware of continuing bombing of areas in North Vietnam. There have also been reports from time to time about the use of gas in Vietnam.

(b) and (c). Government have conveyed to the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels their unhappiness about such action and have appealed for an immediate cessation of bombing.

#### **Selective Conscription**

**\*213. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:  
Shri Heerji Bhal:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 395 on the 21st November, 1966 and state the further progress made so far in the matter of selective conscription in the context of Pindi-Peking threatening attitude?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): The scheme is still under consideration.

#### **Mortality of Newspapers**

**\*214. Shri Anantrao V. Patil:  
Shri Ram Charan:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mortality of newspapers is on the increase during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken to check newspaper monopolies; and

(d) the reasons for giving a step-motherly treatment to the language newspapers by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity giving advertisements?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Lack of adequate finance and advertisement support;

(2) printing difficulties and labour trouble;

(3) inability to face competition;

(4) disputes between partners and shareholders appear to be the main contributory factors.

(c) The Press Council of India is seized of the matter.

(d) The policy of the Government is to divert maximum advertisements to small and medium newspapers consistently with the fulfilment of the object which the advertisement is expected to serve.

#### **Appointments of Ambassadors and Trade Consuls**

**\*215. Shri N. K. Somani:  
Shri Meethalal Meena:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the considerations and qualifications which Government take into account in the appointment of our Ambassadors and Trade Consuls abroad;

(b) whether the facilities and assistance offered to our nationals particularly non-officials, in foreign countries by our Embassies and Trade Consulates are comparable to those which are made available by other countries to their nationals abroad; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to improve them?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) In such appointments, Government take into account the professional competence, experience, and suitability of the persons under consideration.

(b) and (c). Yes. But Government are always striving to improve standards of service consistent with financial resources available.