(c) the progress made so far in securing the release of these Indians?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla); (a) to (c). The question of release and repatriation of Indian nationals detained for alleged economic offences was discussed with the Government of Burma which agreed to expedite the matter in respect of those arrested before 27th May, 1964. It was also agreed that the list of Indians arrested after 27th May, 1964, should be jointly examined by the two sides so that decisions could be taken on each case on merits. Three Indians who were arrested before 27th May, 1964 were released about two weeks ago. Our Embassy is pursuing the matter

Pak Claim for monetary compensation for the Aircraft shot down on 2-2-1967 near Ferozepur

*219. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa: Shri Ram Singh: Shri Brij Bhushan Lal: Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaiya: Shri Narain Sarup Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force recently shot down a Pakistani plane near Ferozepur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan had claimed monetary compensation for the aircraft and its pilot; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. In this connection, the attention of the honble Member is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 17 on 20th March, 1967.

(b) and (c): Yes, Sir. The claim has been rejected by the Government of India.

Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., Bangalore

*220 Shri P. Ramamurti: Shri K. Ramani; Shrimatj Suseela Gopalan: Shri Umanath;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an employee of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. at Bangalore went on fast unto death from the 27th February, 1967 to press for settlement of long standing disputes;

(b) if so, since when the disputes are pending and what are the demands of the employees; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to redress the grievances of the workers?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir. The Bharat Earthmovers Employees Association had resolved on 18th March, 1967 to stage hunger strike with effect from 27th March, 1967 to press certain demands, but the hunger strike has not taken place.

(b) and (c). A Statement explaining the position is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-192/67].

Report of Pillai Committee

*221. Shri C. C. Desai: Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of the Pillai Committee on the Indian Foreign Service; and

(b) if so, the recommendations which have been accepted by Government for implementation?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). The examination of the recommendations of the I.F.S. Committee in the Ministry of External Affairs has been com-