

Shri Easa Gopal Shalwale:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has expressed its willingness to allow traffic between West Bengal and Assam through the portion of Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

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

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

Accommodation for Families of Armed Forces

*450. **Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Sitaram Kesri:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of accommodation for the families of armed forces personnel in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any compensatory allowance is given to officers and other ranks who are without Government quarters, to provide themselves with alternative non-government accommodation;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of the number of officers and other ranks who are without accommodation; and

(d) the average period after posting in Delhi that Government accommodation is made available to them?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). There is no acute shortage of married accommodation for officers of the Armed Forces in Delhi. A certain number of quarters are, however, not available at present for allotment to married officers, as they are occupied by separated families of officers posted out of Delhi, widows of some deceased Service officers, and others. In the case of personnel other than officers, shortage of married accommodation is fairly large.

Married officers, who are not provided with married accommodation, are entitled to free single accommodation and free light and water facilities. A limited number of married officers who are not provided with married accommodation are permitted to hire private houses and claim re-imbusement of rent in accordance with the rules.

Personnel of the Armed Forces, other than officers, who are entitled to married accommodation but are not provided with married quarters are provided single accommodation in barracks free of rent, and allied services. Such of them as are permitted to live out with their families under their own arrangements, are granted compensation in lieu of quarters.

The number of officers and others who are entitled to married accommodation but have not been provided with such accommodation varies according to the number of married officers and personnel posted to Delhi and availability of married accommodation. A recent assessment has indicated that approximately 240 officers and 1200 personnel below officer rank, entitled to married accommodation, have not been able to secure such accommodation from Government sources. These figures do not cover Delhi Cantt, which is treated as a separate station for accommodation purposes.

On an average, an officer after his posting to Delhi has to wait for a period of about nine months before he is allotted married accommodation. In the case of other personnel entitled to married accommodation, the average period of waiting after posting to Delhi varies according to the rank and service from 12 to 41 months.

Manufacture of T.V. Sets

2121. **Shri Virendrakumar Shah:**
Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state: