

to Rs. 2.50 on completion of 10 years' service;

(b) if so, the reason why they are not being paid annual increments like other employees;

(c) whether Government propose to revise the system of payment of increments to Jawans on the lines of other Central Government employees; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. But the Sepoys get two further increments of Rs. 2.50 each on completion of 15 years and 20 years of service.

(b) The pay structure of Jawans is different from that of civilian Government servants.

(c) and (d). The matter has been considered by Government and a decision recently taken will be announced very shortly.

INCREASE IN D.A. PAID TO JAWANS

*309. SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :
SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 115 on the 13th November, 1967 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the proposal to enhance the Dearness Allowance rates of the Jawans; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. The decision recently taken will be announced very shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON

*310. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :
SHRI ANBUCHETHAN :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Viet-Cong attacked the Indian Embassy in Saigon; and

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to our Embassy as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir. We have no report to this effect.

(b) Does not arise.

RELEASE OF "PUEBLO" SHIP OF U.S.A.

*311. SHRI DEIVEEKAN :
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :
SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government have approached the Indian Government to use their good offices for the release of the 83 crew members of "Pueblo" ship from the North Korean Government; and

(b) if so, India's reaction to this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). This question was placed on the agenda of the U.N. Security Council, but there was no substantive discussion, as the President adjourned the Council to enable its Members to have informal consultations. As a Member of the Council, India participated in them and was in touch with the U.S. authorities. These informal consultations resulted in the representatives of the U.S. Government directly meeting the representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Korea at Panmunjom to discuss the release of the ship and her crew.

TRANSFER OF C-430 AIRCRAFTS FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN

*312. SHRI M. L. SONDHI :
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :
SHRI BRAMHANANDJI :
SHRI M. N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the transfer of four C-430 aircrafts