

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Merit and suitability with due regard for seniority.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I know whether it is a fact that from 1959 the declaration of last year's lapsation has been dropped? If so, what are the reasons?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I have got the figure for 1960 which shows the lapse ratio is very low. It is 6.6.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Is it a fact that field workers had been denied annual bonus in spite of the fact that the joint committee of both the representatives of the management and of the field workers unanimously recommended it?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** This question relates to promotions. It has nothing to do with the other aspects of the field officers.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether it is not a fact that contrary to the general practice which prevails elsewhere the earning of annual increments in the case of this staff is made dependent on the amount of business which they can bring up?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** There are many criteria set for promotions. All these criteria are taken into consideration.

#### Supersonic HF-24 Aircrafts

\*863. **Maharajkumar Brij Raj Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is a proposal for Supersonic HF-24 fighter entering into Squadron service in the I.A.F.?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon):** There is no question of "a proposal". The HF-24 was conceived, designed and built for service in the I.A.F. It is developed for that

purpose and production planned for service in the I.A.F.

**Maharajkumar Brij Raj Singh:** In view of the recent hitch in getting the aero engines for this particular aircraft, what is the position right now?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** There is no question of any hitch. The HF-24 as at present has an engine. It performs what it is designed for at the present stage. The other engines are for further developments.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact that for the second stage of the development of HF-24 it was stipulated that it would be powered by an Orpheus-4 to be produced by Bristol-Siddeley Group of Britain, and ultimately they abandoned that scheme, throwing our scheme into confusion?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** The second stage in HF-24 does not come till the first stage of development is over. Secondly, I have not heard of an engine called Orpheus-4.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** Is it a fact that Orpheus-24 which has been ordered for the development of HF-24 only develops subsonic speed and not supersonic speed?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** The hon. Member is confused about these engines. The Orpheus is powered by an Orpheus engine today, 703, which is supersonic. It is just supersonic. I do not want to go into the actual figures, but it is supersonic.

#### Bunkers on Assam-East Pakistan Border Re-occupied by Pakistan

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\*864. { **Shri Hem Barua:**  
      **Shri Maheshwar Naik:**  
      **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan troops have re-occupied the bunkers on the Assam-East Pakistan