

the repair of damages caused by floods, this concession will not apply to those houses which have been demolished for carrying out repairs?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Under the Central Assistance Scheme for natural calamities, this proposal does not conform exactly to the pattern. The grant for natural calamities is made available only for actual repair of houses, to meet the actual expenses incurred, and that was not the request of the Bengal Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Over and above this question, may I know whether assistance will be given in respect of those houses which have been totally demolished?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: As I have already said, the Bengal Government made, again, a representation for getting this loan made available. We have asked the Bengal Government to take a loan on an *ad hoc* basis at the rate of Rs. 300 per house, but they have not so far replied.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the opinion of the Planning Commission in this respect?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The Planning Commission's opinion does not arise in this matter.

भूतपूर्व सैनिकों का निवृत्ति-वेतन

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 *४५३. { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
 श्री मधुसूदन राव :
 श्री वी० चं० शर्मा :
 श्री हेम राज :
 श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त :
 श्री न० रा० मुनिस्वामी :

क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री १७ दिसम्बर, १९५९ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ९९८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के निवृत्ति-वेतन में अस्थायी वृद्धि के प्रश्न के बारे में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) इस विषय में कब तक अन्तिम निर्णय हो जाने की आशा है; और

(ग) अन्तिम निर्णय करने में इतनी देरी क्यों हो रही है ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रों के सभा-सचिव (श्री फतेहसिंह राव गायकवाड) : (क) से (ग). मामला अभी सरकार द्वारा विचाराधीन है। निर्णय शीघ्र होने की आशा है। इस में कोई ऐसी देर नहीं हुई, जो निवार्य हो। कई एक जटिल विवादार्थ विषय हैं जिन से होने वाले प्रतिकारों की सरकार द्वारा पूरी तरह विचार किये जाने की आवश्यकता है।

[(a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of Government. A decision may be expected shortly. There has been little preventible delay. The issues are many and complex and would have repercussions which require very full consideration by Government.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: I read in the papers a speech which was made by the Deputy Minister of Defence at Ambala in which, while addressing the ex-servicemen he said that the pensions of all the ex-servicemen have been enhanced. May I know if he made any statement like that; if so, I think the matter has been settled, and the reply given here does not correspond to the speech made by the Deputy Minister at Ambala?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): So far as my speech is concerned, I did not say "have been enhanced", the expression used by me was "will be", and that explains the position.

Shri Bhakt Darshan: Is it not a fact, Sir, that, about a year ago, the hon. Finance Minister, while making the Budget Speech, made a firm indication in this direction, providing about Rs. 2 crores for this purpose; if so, may I know what are the special reasons for this delay?

Sardar Majithia: This question, as has been said in the reply, has got

repercussions on the other employees and, therefore, it is a very complex question. The matter is being discussed between the Ministry of Finance and the Defence Ministry, and we do expect to come to a decision very soon.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the category of the ex-servicemen whose case for a temporary increase in pension is under consideration, and their number?

Sardar Majithia: I do not know exactly, possibly it runs into about 3,50,000 and the money involved will also run into a couple of crores of rupees.

Children's Book Trust

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*454. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 482 on the 1st December, 1959 and state:

(a) the steps taken by the Children's Book Trust to publish standard illustrated books for children; and

(b) when they are likely to be published?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) A Press is being set up.

(b) The publication of books will be undertaken only after the Press has been set up.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that other book trusts and other ad hoc bodies like the Indian Cultural Association have started their publications without setting up a Press; if so, may I know why it is thought necessary in this case that the Press should be set up first and books published afterwards?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: In this regard I should like to inform the House that as far as this Trust is concerned, Government do not have anything to do with it except that the Government have given a loan to it on interest.

It is entirely the responsibility of the Trust to produce books as desired. The Government are interested in the production of children's literature and they have agreed to give them loan on interest. There has been some delay, it is true; but in the initial stages the difficulty was due to lack of foreign exchange and there was also some delay in ordering for the Press. I am told now that the Trust propose to set up the Press and they are also preparing books which will come out for production in course of time. I cannot exactly say when this will take place, because it is entirely their responsibility.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would like to know when we can expect the first set of books to be published?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have already said, it is more than I can say, because this is an entirely independent Trust. All that the Government has done is to give them loan, and I am as anxious as the hon. Member that the books should come into production as quickly as possible. We can only ask them, we cannot do anything more than that.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What is the amount of loan granted and what is the rate of interest?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The loan will bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, and the first instalment of loan of Rs. 4 lakhs was released in June 1959.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that there exist at present children's literary societies managed by the Central Government in most of the States, how do Government propose to co-ordinate the activities of these societies and the Trust?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: There is great paucity and dearth of suitable literature for the children and it has been the policy of the Government to encourage publishers coming forward with such literature. We have various schemes of giving prizes, etc. There are various ways in which we