

to appoint a third judge for the High Court of Assam; and

(b) if so, when and why there has been so much delay in coming to a final decision?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Owing to the difficulty in getting a suitable person for this high office, the vacancy could not be filled so far. The matter is under active consideration of Government.

Pension Benefits for I.N.A. Personnel

2581. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former I.N.A. personnel receive no pensionary benefits;

(b) if so, what kind of help Government have provided for their rehabilitation; and

(c) how many I.N.A. personnel have received help from Government?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) The answer is in the negative. Indian Army personnel who had joined the I.N.A. and were subsequently discharged from the Army, were granted service pensionary benefits under the normal rules for their total service, including the period spent in the I.N.A.

(b) Apart from the grant of pensionary benefits, they have been treated like other ex-servicemen, and have enjoyed the following facilities in the matter of re-employment in Government service:

- (i) Preference in recruitment to posts for which military training is a qualification, such as in the Border Police, Armed Police, Home Guards, Watch and Ward etc. and also in recruitment to civilian

appointments in Defence installations;

- (ii) Relaxation of the age-limit for recruitment to the extent of service rendered in the Armed Forces plus a grace period of three years, if necessary; and

- (iii) priority as for retrenched Central Government employees in the matter of registration and submission of their names by Employment Exchanges when vacancies are notified by employing departments.

(c) Pensionary awards were granted to 10780 ex-I.N.A. personnel. Payments could not be made to a few persons as they were not traceable. Upto April 1962, 1183 ex-I.N.A. personnel had been re-enrolled in the Army, and 98 had been employed as civilians in Defence Establishments upto the 30th June 1961.

Manganese and Iron Ore in Bijapur District

**2582. { Shri R. G. Dubey:
Shri S. B. Patil:**

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants who have applied for exploiting the Manganese and Iron ore in Kamatagi hills near Bagalkot in Bijapur District of Mysore State;

(b) how many of them were granted the licence; and

(c) the average production per year in this area?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajar-navis): (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Government of Mysore and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as available.