

of the Armed Forces or who have taken a special interest in fostering the development of any of the Armed Forces. The particular honorary rank to be granted is determined with reference to the status, position and age of the recipient.

(b) No case of any honorary commission holder having courted arrest or imprisonment in the course of India's struggle for freedom has yet come to the notice of the Government.

Indian Gorkha Ex-servicemen Welfare Fund

3724. Shri Manaan: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Indian Gorkha Ex-servicemen Welfare Fund formed;

(b) the amount of the fund at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that a sum of rupees one lakh has been distributed to various States by way of token grants; and

(d) if so, the break-up thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) The Indian Gorkha Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund was formed in May, 1951.

(b) The amount of the Fund at present is Rs. 6,84,670-52 n.P.

(c) and (d). A sum of rupees One lakh has been distributed to the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund of those States where the Gorkha ex-Servicemen have settled. The break-up of this allotment is as under:—

Rs.

Uttar Pradesh	19,500
Madras	500
West Bengal	24,500
Assam	40,000
Punjab	7,500
Bihar	5,000
Himachal Pradesh	3,000

Deferred payment agreements for Rourkela Steel Plant

3725. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 764 on the 8th March, 1958 and state the names of the firms and banks in West Germany which are committed to deferred payments agreements in regard to payment for the Rourkela Steel Plant?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Attention is invited to the statement made by the Minister of Mines and Oil on the 25th March 1958 clarifying answers given to certain supplementaries to Starred Question No. 764 replied on the 8th March, 1958 regarding the postponement of outstanding payments for the Rourkela Steel Plant. The agreement reached with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany enables the Government of India, with the cooperation of the German firms and banks concerned, to postpone by three years outstanding payments for the Rourkela Steel Plant, upto a maximum of DM 660 million. Under this agreement, the Government of India have to deliver to the German firms concerned in lieu of cash payments, promissory notes in Deutsche Marks maturing three years after the date the payments fall due. The German firms will be entitled to negotiate the promissory notes in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany will ensure that the firms are able to get paid by negotiation of the promissory notes. All suppliers of plant and machinery for the Rourkela Steel Plant have agreed to accept promissory notes.

Fire Service Organization

3726. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength of Fire Service Organisation stationed at Imphal;