

the intervening Sunday, when the office was closed, the charge-sheets were issued to them on the 17th November, 1969.

(c) and (d). The suspended employees are being paid subsistence allowance in accordance with the rules of Indian Oil Corporation, which provide 50% of salary as subsistence allowance during the period of suspension.

The West Bengal Payment of Subsistence Allowance Act, 1969 came into force with effect only from the 1st March, 1970. This Act does not provide for any retrospective effect thereof and, therefore, it does not apply to the six employees in question who were suspended prior to 1st March, 1970.

Expenditure involved in Operations undertaken by Indian Armed Forces in Ceylon

2684. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ. No. 1443 on the 7th June, 1971 and state the total expenditure involved in the operations undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces in Ceylon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): Government of India have decided that the cost of services rendered by the Indian Armed Forces at the request of Ceylon of Government may not be recovered from that Government. It is difficult to work out the actual cost of these services.

Russian base in Indian Ocean

2686. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Ambassador in South Yemen visited the Indian Ocean to verify whether Russia has any base at Socotra;

(b) if so, the gist of the report of our Ambassador in this regard;

(c) whether Government of India's attention on the subject has been invited to a paper published by British Government; and

(d) whether in this paper it has been clearly pointed out that Russians have put up a base in the Indian Ocean?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Our Ambassador in South Yemen visited Socotra along with a number of other Heads of Missions.

(b) His report clarifies that there is no Soviet base at Socotra.

(c) and (d). Government of India are not aware of any recent paper published by the British Government in which it is stated that the Soviet Union have put up a base in the Indian Ocean.

Crossing of Border by Kuki and Mizo Hostiles to East Pakistan

2687. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Kuki and Mizo hostiles had crossed the Manipur and Mizo Hills borders on their way to East Pakistan for arms and training in guerilla warfare; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): There has been no significant movement of the hostiles into East Pakistan recently. Government are, however, aware that about 1200 Mizo hostiles have taken sanctuary in East Pakistan since 1968 and are receiving active assistance in training and arms from the Government of Pakistan.

(b) Protest Notes have been lodged with the Government of Pakistan on the assistance and support provided by them to these elements. Necessary steps have also been taken to prevent the movement of these hostiles from and to East Pakistan.

सरकारी अभावक सहकारी कुह निर्माण सोलाहटी लिमिटेड, दिल्ली को मृत्ति का आर्षदन

2688. श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार: क्या निर्माण और अभावक मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने क्वाटर्नों के निर्माण