

LOSSES DUE TO CLOSURE OF SUEZ CANAL

*390. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enquired into the financial loss to Indian interests as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the steps which have been taken by Government to minimise Indian losses ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). As already stated in answer to Unstarred Question No. 8350 on 24th April, 1968, while it is not possible to estimate the loss, India is incurring an additional expenditure of an estimated 22.5 million Rupees per month because of the higher freight charges which have to be paid for our imports from the West. Since statistics of freight paid on exports are not maintained, it is not possible to assess the additional expenditure incurred on our exports.

(c) Government have succeeded in getting the surcharge on freight rates reduced by about 2½ to 5 per cent.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

3058. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fully trained citizens in military training and/or in use of fire-arms in the N.C.C., Territorial Army, Civilian Rifle Training School and Home Guards, separately, so far;

(b) whether Government have ever considered the necessity of giving compulsory military training to all adults; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) The numbers are as follows :—

(i) N.C.C.—26,96,400

(ii) Territorial Army—40,288.

This is the present strength; figures of those, who have retired/resigned from the Territorial Army, are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(iii) *Civilian Rifle Training School.*

There is no Civilian Rifle Training School; but, about 1,87,000 civilians were trained under the Civilian Rifle Training Scheme up to the end of 1966. Further data will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(iv) *Home Guards*—2,91,608.

(b) The variety of schemes mentioned above are available for providing military training or training involving the use of fire-arms to the people at large. These provide an ample base for the needs of defence in an emergency. Any scheme of compulsory military training due to the vastness of the country's population is fraught with difficulties of management in finding defence personnel and equipment required for training and expense. It is doubtful if there is any real necessity for such a scheme. In the circumstances, it is practical wisdom to proceed on the limited basis, indicated above.

(c) Does not arise.

छावनियों के सिविल क्षेत्रों में
ओल्ड ग्रांट लैंड

3059. डा० गोविन्द बास : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या छावनियों के सिविल क्षेत्रों में 'ओल्ड ग्रांट लैंड' कहलाने वाली भूमि, जिस पर लोगों ने मकान बना रखे हैं, उन्हें किसी निश्चित समझौते के आधार पर दी गई थी और यदि हां, तो क्या यह समझौता लिखित था ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस समझौते के अन्तर्गत कुछ शर्तें रखी थीं और यदि हां, तो क्या उस भूमि के मालिकों को वे शर्तें बता दी गई हैं और यदि हां, तो क्या उसके लिए एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखने का सरकार का विचार है ;

(ग) क्या एक शर्त यह है कि इस भूमि पर मकान का पुनर्निर्माण करने के लिये भूमि का पट्टा लेना अनिवार्य है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो छावनी अधिनियम के किस खंड तथा नियमों के अन्तर्गत यह प्रति-बन्ध लगाये गये हैं ; और