

की कसूर किन्हीं चीजों पर जब कभी इस बारे में प्रश्न किया जाता है, तो बही बाप रिपीट कर ही जाती है कि प्रती डिमिशन लिया जायेगा, आदि। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर उन लोगों के बेटन, बने आर पुनर्वापन आदि के बारे में कब फैसला किया जायेगा।

Shri Swaran Singh: I note the sentiments of the hon. Member and I will see that a decision is taken.

Shri Humayan Kabir: In view of the fact that more than 20 years have elapsed since the INA has ceased, why is the Government taking so long to come to a decision?

Shri Swaran Singh: This matter has been coming up before this House on many occasions and several statements have been made on one occasion or the other. I am aware of statements having been made on two occasions. So, a certain decision has been taken. It was in the course of a half-an-hour discussion, when my predecessor Shri Chavan was the Defence Minister, that this matter was again raised and Shri Chavan promised that he will get this matter examined again. So, it is really not that no decision has been taken for 20 years.

Shri Samar Guha: Yesterday, I had an occasion to meet a number of ex-I.N.A. soldiers in the Central Office of I.N.A., New Delhi. Those people, with anger in their eyes, said that it is not 20 years but 22 years that have passed and no pay, allowances and pension have been given to them. The pay, allowances and pension of those brilliant soldiers, those gallant soldiers, who gave their best and served the country have been forfeited by the Government. What a shame it is to them. The Minister of Defence now says that they have not had the time to go through the matter in detail.

Mr. Speaker: The strong feelings of the hon. Member may be kept in mind.

Shri Samar Guha: An early decision may be taken and their pay, pension and allowances should be taken into consideration and paid to them.

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to correct one thing. They have been allowed pension. It is wrong to say that pension has not been paid to them.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U.S. Lethal Spares for Pakistan

*421. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Atam Das:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information is available of U. S. lethal spares equipment already reaching Pakistan; and

(b) the Government's estimate of Pak strength in Patton tanks and Sabre Jets which can be made serviceable with the help of such spares?

The Minister of Defence (**Shri Swaran Singh**): (a) Government have seen reports about Pakistan having submitted to the Government of U.S.A. a long list of spares required for the lethal equipment held by its Armed Forces. Government have no definite information about the actual receipt of any of these by Pakistan so far.

(b) Although it may be possible for Pakistan to put back into use some of the Patton Tanks and Sabre Jet aircraft which were damaged as a result of the conflict in 1965, no accurate estimate of this is possible. What is clear, however, is that the overall serviceability rate of Pakistani equipment of American origin is bound to go up appreciably, now that it is in a position to obtain the needed spares thereof.