

cases pending on 1st April, 1966 and 15,422 fresh cases came up thereafter upto 28th February, 1967, thus making a total of 18,531. Out of these, only 4,131 cases are now pending which include 1,058 reassessment cases where, on an earlier assessment, disability pensions had already been sanctioned.

It is not possible to indicate exactly how long it will take to settle the outstanding cases. Clear cases are settled within one to two months from the date of discharge of the individuals. In other cases some delay is unavoidable for the following reason:

- (i) a decision regarding attributability of the disability to service for which reference to various documents e.g. Medical Board Proceedings, Medical History etc. has to be made.
- (ii) finalisation of Court of Inquiry proceedings in cases of injury due to accidents.
- (iii) collection of essential documents from Record Offices/hospitals/units etc. which takes considerable time.

Procedural instructions have, however, been issued to minimise these delays as far as possible.

(b) and (c):

- (i) The rates of disability pension have been enhanced, in cases of Armed Forces personnel invalidated out of service as a result of injuries sustained in action in the operation against Chinese aggression in September—November 1962, in the Kutch operations in April—June 1965, in the operations against Pakistan in August 1965 onwards, and in certain other operations (e.g., against hostile Nagas, Mizos) on or after 16th September 1966.

(ii) In the case of Armed Forces personnel invalidated out of service on account of injuries sustained in action in the Kutch operations and in the operations against Pakistan, the premium payable on their LIC policies is waived in full if the disablement is accepted as 80% or more and in half if the disablement is accepted as 40% or more but less than 80%.

(iii) Army personnel disabled during the Chinese and Pakistan aggressions are being afforded vocational training through Medical Rehabilitation Centre and Vocational Training Centres. During the period of training they are treated as on duty.

(iv) War blinded ex-servicemen are imparted vocational training by the Training Centre for Adult Blind, Dehradun. Their period of training is treated as on duty.

(v) *Ex-gratia* financial relief is given to disabled personnel in the form of lump-sum grants from the Disabled Army Personnel, Widows and Orphans Fund on receipt of applications.

(vi) Special efforts are also being made to find employment for them in Government and private organisations.

Indonesia-Pak. Agreement

372. Shri M. Sudarsanam: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indonesia has repudiated the agreement which its previous regime had entered into with Pakistan for the supply of defence equipment; and

(b) whether the Indonesian Government have assured India that all the defence equipment so far supplied to Pakistan would be returned?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Although some items of defence equipment were understood to have been supplied by Indonesia to Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan conflict; Government of India are not aware of any formal agreement between Indonesia and Pakistan in this regard.

(b) The Indonesian Government has assured us that no military equipment is now being supplied to Pakistan.

Loss of a Diplomatic bag

373. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Diplomatic bag was lost by the Indian Airlines Corporation staff in 1966;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into this incident; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(c) Three officials of the Indian Airlines Corporation have been found negligent in their duty, and appropriate departmental action has been recommended against them. Some suggestions to streamline the system of carriage of diplomatic mail to prevent a recurrence of such loss of bag in transit in future were suggested by C.B.I. These have also been considered and implemented.

Shortage of Doctors and Engineers in the Armed Forces

374. Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of

doctors and engineers is being felt in the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) In the case of Engineers there is still considerable shortage. There is a shortage in the case of Doctors also but the position is not acute.

(b) A Statement giving the information is attached. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-194/67].

Manufacture of Jets with UAR Collaboration

375. Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the latest progress made so far in regard to the manufacture of Jets in Collaboration with U.A.R.?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat): One HF 24 aircraft has been made available to the U.A.R. Government to serve as a flying test bed for a supersonic engine (E. 300) under development in U.A.R. Ground development trials on the E. 300 engine are in progress in the UAR and the HF 24 aircraft with E. 300 engine had its first flight on 29th March, 1967. The question of collaboration in manufacture of supersonic aircraft will arise only after the successful completion of the flight tests.

सैनिक स्कूल, कुंजपुरा में डूबने की घटना

376. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गत वर्ष सैनिक स्कूल, कुंजपुरा (करनाल) के एक स्वीमिंग पूल में डूबने से एक छात्र के डूबकर मर जाने के बारे में पूरी छानबीन हो गई है;