

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI
NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA) :

(a) The pay and ration scales applicable to the army and Air Force personnel are not identical. The details in regard to pay scales are contained in the Book on Service Conditions, 1970, in respect of Armed Forces Personnel and Civilians in Defence Establishments, which was circulated to all the Hon'ble Members with the last Annual Report of the Ministry.

Considerable uniformity have been achieved by the action taken in the past few years. The variations, however, still exist in the following important items :—

Item	Scale	
	Army	Air Force
(i) Oil Hydrogenated	70 Gms	80Gms
(ii) Sugar	90 ,,	70 ,,
(iii) Meat	100 ,,	180 ,,
(iv) Milk	230 ml	190 ml
(v) Vegetables	180 gms.	160 gms
(vi) Baisin	15 ,,	Nil

Note:—The Calorific value of the two scales is, however, almost the same, viz. 3,950 for the Army (troops) and 3,998 for the Air Force.

(b) The differences in pay scales between the Army and Air force are due partly to the basic difference which existed prior to Independence but mainly due to the difference in the nature of duties and extent of responsibilities in the various grades and ranks. Thus, qualifications, skill and experience required vary in the two Services. Uniformity of pay in each rank and category is thus not feasible.

As regards rations, the reasons for difference are mainly traditional and historical and the reluctance on the part of the Services to accept any decreases to achieve uniformity.

(c) and (d). The examination of the structure of emoluments including benefits in cash and kind and death-cum-retirement benefits of personnel belonging to the Armed Forces, having regard to their terms and conditions of service, has been entrusted to the Third Pay Commission. The Government will take a view on these matters in the light of the recommendations and views of the Pay Commission.

Thefts of Transformers in and around Delhi

*761. SHRI N. K. SOMANI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how many cases have been reported to the Police for the thefts of transformers in and around Delhi during the last three years ;

(b) the result of the Police investigations ; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to control the increasing incidents of such thefts ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) 61 cases of thefts of transforms in and around Delhi have been reported to the Police from the beginning of 1968 up to 31st July, 1970. The thefts have taken place in outlying and rural areas in the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

(b) The Police investigations so far have not resulted in the recovery of the materials or the apprehension of the culprits.

(c) Transformers are welded with the structures in the rural areas ; the police authorities and Gram Panchayats have been requested to intensify surveillance, particularly in outlying and rural areas. D. E. S. U. have also announced cash awards to be given to any person who gives definite information regarding the thefts of transformers.

Merger of National Projects Construction Corporation with National Buildings Organisation

*762. SHRI S. M. SOLAKI : Will the

Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a suggestion was made by a Parliamentary Committee and an expert body that in view of the repeated losses sustained by the National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. it should be merged with the National Buildings Organisation ; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and at what stage the matter stand now ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

British Reply to India on Arms Sale to South Africa

*764. SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Prime Minister has written another letter to the Indian Prime Minister on the proposed sale of arms to South Africa;

(b) if so, the contents of letter; and

(c) whether India has also drawn the attention of the British Prime Minister to the condemnation of the decision by all Western Countries and requested the United Kingdom Government to reconsider its decision ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c). There has been an exchange of correspondence between the Prime Minister of Britain and India on the intended British move to resume arms sales to South Africa. As the correspondence is of a confidential nature, its contents cannot be disclosed. Government of India's opposition to the U. K. move for supply of arms to South Africa has already been stated in the Lok Sabha.

Third Satellite Communication Earth Station at Dehradun

*765. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether third satellite communication earth station is likely to be built at Dehra Dun next year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the allocation made for the purpose and the salient features of the project ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Apart from the satellite Communication Earth Station being set up at Arvi near Poooa, there is a proposal to set up another Earth Station in the Northern Region during the Fourth Five Year Plan period;

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A proposal has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan of the Overseas Communications Service for setting up of a second Earth Station in the Northern Region near Delhi. A site near Dehra Dun has been recommended by a Departmental Technical Committee for location of the proposed second Earth Station on technical and other considerations. The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

A feasibility report on the proposed second Earth Station Project has been prepared by the Director General, Overseas Communications Service. According to this report, the proposed Earth Station, which will cater to the external telecommunications traffic requirements of the Northern Region, is estimated to cost about Rs. 609 lakhs with a foreign exchange component of about Rs.190 lakhs. This Earth Station will also operate through the Indian Ocean Satellite. The feasibility report is under Government's consideration.