

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

884. *Sardar Gulab Singh: (a) Is it a fact that some motor vehicles are attached to the head office of the Royal Air Force at Delhi?

(b) Does a similar arrangement exist in the case of other offices of the Army Headquarters?

(c) If not, will Government please state the reasons why a special concession has been granted to the head office of the Royal Air Force in regard to motor vehicles?

Mr. E. Burdón: (a) Yes.

(b) No motor vehicles are attached to Army Headquarters.

(c) Army Headquarters is a staff formation and the Royal Air Force Headquarters is the headquarters of an executive command. It is for this reason that a small allotment of mechanical transport is given to the Royal Air Force Headquarters. I may mention that the Headquarters of all subordinate Royal Air Force formation in India and elsewhere have to be similarly equipped.

FINANCE SECTION OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

885. *Sardar Gulab Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the grant for the Finance Section attached to the Royal Air Force Headquarters is provided in the non-voted Army Estimates, whereas the grants for the other Finance Sections attached to Army Headquarters are provided in the voted Civil Estimates?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons why the budget grant for the Finance Section attached to the Royal Air Force Headquarters should not be transferred from the non-voted Army Estimates to the voted Civil Estimates?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Finance Section of the Royal Air Force Headquarters is a part of the office of the Controller, Royal Air Force Accounts, who, in addition to the duties of a Controller of Military Accounts, performs the duties of a Deputy Financial Adviser in regard to the expenditure of the Royal Air Force. The object of this arrangement is to avoid unnecessary duplication of establishments. In accordance with the principles governing the classification of expenditure in the public accounts, the charges are correctly shown under the Army Estimates.

NUMBER OF OFFICERS PERMITTED TO RETIRE ON PROPORTIONATE PENSIONS.

886. *Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officers who were permitted to retire before the prescribed period of service on proportionate pensions under the "premature retirement rules" specifying in each case the class of service to which they belonged, period of service and the amount of pension sanctioned?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: A statement is laid on the table giving the information up to the 31st December, 1928. Pensions are