

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

A tripartite agreement was arrived at. This assigned eight Gurkha battalions in the then Indian Army to the U.K. and provided for the personnel of these battalions to be questioned individually whether they desired to transfer their service to the U.K. Government. Those who did not so desire, remained in the Indian Army.

It was also agreed that "for the present" the U. K. Government might continue to use the existing recruiting depots at Gorakhpur and Ghum near Darjeeling. It was felt that this would be more convenient for all parties concerned, as a temporary measure, than if new depots for recruitment were opened, either in Nepal territory or elsewhere. It was then the intention of the U.K. Government to establish recruiting depots in Nepal.

In a statement made by me in Parliament on the 10th of December 1947, I said as follows:

"In connection with the employment of Gurkhas by HMG, the Government of India have agreed to grant HMG certain necessary facilities, such as, the use, as a temporary measure, of the existing depots at Gorakhpur and Ghum and the provision on mutually satisfactory terms of transit facilities, postal and telegraphic facilities, special food stuffs, Indian currency and remittance facilities".

In pursuance of this arrangement, the U. K. Government were allowed, as a temporary measure, to use the existing recruiting depots of the Indian Army at Gorakhpur and Ghum (Darjeeling). Later, in March 1948 a separate depot was established at Jalapahar near Darjeeling and in February 1950 another depot was established at Lehra in Gorakhpur. The latter depot has been leased out to the U.K. Government for a period of ten years.

At both these recruiting depots, the Gurkha recruits are medically examined and formally enrolled. No training is given at these places.

Facilities to use recruiting depots in India were originally asked for and granted by us as a purely temporary measure. These have continued for some years in order to meet the wishes of the Nepal Government in this matter.

As this matter concerns two other Governments, namely, the Govern-

ment of Nepal and the Government of the United Kingdom, it will be taken up with these Governments.

An Hon. Member: May I ask one question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No questions are allowed on statements made by Members of the Government. This has reference to rule 286 which says that a statement may be made by a Minister on a particular matter and no questions shall be asked at the time the statement is made.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Can a clarification be sought?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That means asking a question.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of the Council of States:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to inform the House of the People that the Council of States, at its sitting held on the 6th August, 1952, agreed without any amendment to the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Bill, 1952, which was passed by the House of the People at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1952."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to inform the House of the People that the Council of States, at its sitting held on the 7th August, 1952, agreed without any amendment to the Commissions of Inquiry Bill, 1952, which was passed by the House of the People at its sitting held on the 29th July, 1952."

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): May I ask the hon. the Leader of the House the exact date by which we shall be in a position to disperse, because many of the Members have to make their arrangements for going home?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I cannot give a precise and definite date, but I earnestly hope that we may be able to finish by the 12th evening. The 13th in any event is a

holiday and I think it should be possible to finish by the 12th.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 15th is also a holiday.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES ETC.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table a consolidated statement showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the First Session of the House of the People, 1952. (See Appendix XII, annexure No. 5.]

RESERVE AND AUXILIARY AIR FORCES BILL

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

I do not think I need say much to commend this motion to the House. The House is aware that the principles of this Bill were discussed on a previous occasion when the Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses. This Joint Committee examined the provisions of the Bill and their report has been circulated to hon. Members of the House. The Joint Committee went into the provisions of the Bill in very great detail. As there was practically complete unanimity of opinion as regards the principles of the Bill, the necessity for the constitution of these Reserves and the general considerations on which these Reserves were to be constituted and worked, the Committee only went into the question of what improvements could be made in the details of the measure.

They have made a number of changes, most of them of a minor character. Two or three of them are of some importance. I do not think it is necessary for me to take the House through all the minor improvements that have been effected in the provisions of the Bill. They have been referred to in the Report of the Joint Committee, but I might refer to one or two of them.

We have first of all provided for the competent authority under the Bill consisting not merely of a single air officer designated for the purpose, but consisting also in suitable cases and in suitable areas of a committee of two or more air officers. Another perhaps important change in the measure is that in connection with the regular Air Force Reserve we have provided for the appointment of any member of the Air Defence Reserve or the Air Auxiliary Force to the Regular Air Force Reserve.

There are a few other smaller changes that have been effected, but I would refer only to one or two major points which have been referred to in the minutes of dissent appended to the Bill. The first to which I should like to make a reference is the suggestion that none of these Reserves should be used or allowed to be used in aid of the civil power. We discussed this matter at great length in the Select Committee and we came to the conclusion that the provisions in the Bill should stand as they are so far as this matter is concerned. The calling out of the Armed Forces in aid of the civil power is a principle which we have accepted in other enactments which provide for the maintenance of law and order, and amongst the Armed Forces are included these Reserves and the Auxiliary Force as well. Such an obligation rests also upon the Territorial Army which has been constituted under the previous enactment. It is not that in every case of a disturbance of the public order these reserves would be called out as a matter of course. Naturally in most cases, wherever the civil authorities are unable to deal with the situation, they will try to use such regular Armed Forces as might be available to them, if it became necessary, and only in very exceptional cases are demands likely to be made on the Air Force Reserves or the Auxiliary Air Force. There are situations, there are places in the country where it might not be possible to make demands on other kinds of Armed Forces simply for the reason that they are not easily available in or near the locality. In such places if these Reserves are more easily available, there should be nothing to prevent the use of these forces if it is necessary for the quelling of disturbance or the preservation of law and order. So, the Committee came to the conclusion, and I think it is a right conclusion that this obligation should also rest upon these Reserves.

The second point of some importance is what is now provided for in regard to the Air Defence Reserve. The provisions relating to Air Defence Reserve go through two or three