

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि सभी प्रेडज में घटाए गए हैं।

Selective Conscription to Armed Forces

+
*395. **Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 20 on the 25th July, 1966 and state:

(a) the further progress made in the matter of selective conscription in the context of Pindi-Peking threatening attitude; and

(b) whether Government would consider the desirability of conscription of all adults to the Army on an emergency basis in view of the threatening postures of the Sino-Pakistan axis?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) The scheme is still under consideration.

(b) It is not considered necessary to conscript all adults to the army.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: In reply to a question in this House on 25th July, 1966, the Government was pleased to say that the programme has been under consideration at the expert level. For how long has the scheme been at the expert level what are the reasons for the inordinate delay and will the scheme be finalised early?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have already said that it is still under consideration. It is true that the experts were to give an opinion on that but the opinion was not quite uniform; some had expressed the view that the scheme would be much too costly and the actual results would not be commensurate with the effort that was likely to be put in.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: It is said that the scheme would be very costly. Has any probable estimate of the scheme been made and have the States been sounded in the matter?

Shri Swaran Singh: No, the State have not yet been sounded. As regards the cost, as the scheme has not taken any final shape it is not easy to give even an approximate picture of the financial side.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the fact that the scheme has not yet been settled finally, will the Government indicate the line in which Government proposes to take effective action in the matter?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am glad to inform the House that the response for recruitment has been very good. The talk of conscription arises if the normal voluntary response is halting. We are lucky that the patriotism of our people is such that there has been a very generous response.

श्री बिश्मनाथ पाण्डेय : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि पिडी-पीकिंग गटजोड़ के खतरे के संदर्भ में सेनाओं में चुनीदा लोगों की अनिवार्य भर्ती करने के प्रश्न पर सरकार ने अभी कोई निश्चित राय कायम नहीं की है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान और चाइना की ओर से हमारे देश को जो खतरा है, क्या उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए हमारी स्थल सेना पर्याप्त है, जिसके कारण सरकार अभी अनिवार्य भर्ती के सम्बन्ध में विचार नहीं कर रही है।

Shri Swaran Singh: That is a broader question. I have already said that the response from the people is very good.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether many of the officers who were granted emergency commissions have volunteered themselves that even if they are not given the post for which they were commissioned they are ready to take a smaller

post and, if the answer is in the affirmative, what would be the reaction of Government in this matter because they have already been given training and they are fully equipped?

Shri Swaran Singh: I may say that this does not arise out of this question of conscription.

Mr. Speaker: It is only a suggestion that those who had offered their services may be retained and their services utilised.

Shri Surendrapal Singh: So far, either because of tradition or because of pressing economic reasons, a large majority of officers for our armed forces have been coming from the lower middle class and from amongst the farmers and the agricultural community and the so-called affluent class and the upper middle class has remained untapped. In view of that, will it not be advisable in the interest of national integration to introduce this scheme as early as possible to remove this imbalance, and to create a sense of unity among all classes of people in the country?

Shri Swara Singh: It is a viewpoint which will be considered.

Shri Kapur Singh: In view of the context just now referred to by the hon. Minister in his reply, do the Government propose to withdraw or at least suspend the quit notices issued on the temporary commissioned officers by the army? This is a more definite question and it arises out of this.

Shri Swaran Singh: The officers who were recruited for temporary commissions were recruited under a definite scheme and those who offered their services at that time also knew that they were being taken temporarily. That scheme is naturally to be taken as a scheme of temporary commissions. Some of them can be considered even for permanent commissions, but the scheme from the very nature of it was that of temporary commissions and as such as there

are certain implications of it which cannot easily be altered.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : श्रीमन्, 4 हजार के करीब हमारे नवयुवक ऐसे थे जो अच्छी अच्छी जगह छोड़ करके एमजसी कमीशन में आये थे और उन्हें आपने नोटिस दिया है। अब न तो उनको वह जगह देने के लिए तैयार है जहां से छोड़ कर आये थे और न कोई उनके भविष्य के लिए कोई गारंटी देते हैं कि उन्हें कोई न कोई जगह मिल जायगी। वह चार हजार हमारे हिन्दुस्तान की क्रीम समक्षियेगा, उनसे बह कर शायद दिल व दिमाग के लोग आगे पैदा भी न होंगे। तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस हालत में उनके भविष्य के मुताल्लिक सरकार ने क्या सोचा है ?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am conscious of the fact that those who volunteer their services for emergency service with the armed forces came forward with the best of motives of sacrifice and service to the country and their services have been utilised. But the very fact that they came forward in response to a demand for emergency shows that it was for a certain definite objective that they had come forward. Thereafter, we will certainly do our best to provide them alternative jobs. Some of them will even get permanent commission. There are schemes about which a mention has been made in this Parliament from time to time.

Shri D. C. Sharma: To me, the term 'selective conscription' sounds like a self-contradictory thing. Taking for granted that the Government has accepted this term 'selective conscription', may I know who are the experts that are studying this great problem of selective conscription and what are the terms of reference given to them and what are the decisions which they have arrived at in regard to this self-contradictory thing known as 'selective conscription'?

Shri Swaran Singh: There is no contradiction at all. Selective conscription means conscription not for

the entire adult population of the country but conscription for certain categories. Therefore, there is no contradiction as is made out by the learned Member. He asked me as to who are the experts who are advising the Government. I cannot give all the names now. But I know that Dr. Kothari is one such expert.

Shri Swaran Singh: He is a great educationist.

Shri Swaran Singh: He is a great educationist and a great scientist.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Much less than Prof. D. C. Sharma.

Shri Swaran Singh: Of course. How can I compare any outsider with any hon. Member of this House?

About the actual recommendation, if the recommendation had been finalised, Government would have taken some decision. I have already said that the recommendation has not yet been finalised.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the present ratio of reserved forces and territorial forces compared to regular forces or standing army? Would he like to give some figures?

Shri Swaran Singh: If a separate Question is tabled, I will certainly give the information.

श्री मौर्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके द्वारा मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि जिस समय एमर्जेंसी थी उस समय और प्रक्सर, जब कभी भी भर्ती होती है तो सिड्युल्ड कास्ट के कहे जाने वाले लोग सबसे आगे आते हैं भर्ती के लिए, लेकिन उनका भर्ती नहीं किया जाता हालांकि वह फिजिकली फिट होते हैं, चुन लिये जाते हैं लेकिन जब उनकी जार्न पूछी जाती है, चुने जाने के बाद तो उनको कह दिया जाता है कि चमार, भंगा, धोयां आदि अछूत जातियों का भर्ती नहीं है तो क्या यह जो पुरानी प्रथा पड़ी हुई है, इसको रोकने के लिए

मंत्री महोदय कोई कदम उठायेंगे क्योंकि अब इस समय इस मार्शन साइंस के जमाने में कोई भी मार्शल और नान-मार्शल कम्प्यूनिटी नहीं रह गई है, बहादुर और युजदिल हर क़ीम में मिलते हैं।

Shri Swaran Singh: The recruitment is open to every Indian irrespective of any caste, and I do not know....

Shri Maurya: I have seen with my own eyes on the boards that scheduled castes are not to be recruited.

Shri Swaran Singh: The hon. Member need not thump the Table. If he has got any particular instance, I am prepared to look into it.

श्री राम सेबक यादव : प्रापकी जानकारी में ऐसी शिकायतें आयी हैं ?

Shri Swaran Singh: No, Sir. None has come to my notice.

Tarapore Atomic Power Station

+

- *396. **Dr. M. M. Das:**
Dr. P. N. Khan:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Tarapore Atomic Power Station;

(b) the total cost of the project and the amount that India has to pay to the General Electric Company of U.S.A.; and

(c) whether the Indian engineers have been associated with the construction of the Power Station by the above-mentioned foreign firm who have been entrusted with the construction on a turnkey basis?

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Dr. Sarojini Mahishi): (a) About seventy percent of the work on the Station has been completed so far.