

Pensions to Pre-Partitioned Indian Army Personnel

*1438. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to pay temporary increases at enhanced rates of pension to displaced pensioners of prepartitioned Indian Army; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Sir Raghuramaiah): (a) and (b). The question of paying temporary increases at enhanced rates to displaced pensioners, including those of the pre-partition Indian Army, is before the Government.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether such recommendations have been made by the Pay Commission regarding the enhancement of the rates for pensioners who are displaced, and if so, what action Government are taking on the same?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The Pay Commission did not cover the Army personnel. This question relates to ex-Army pensioners.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this particular matter was included in the terms of reference of the Raghuramaiah Committee, and if so, the recommendations made by that committee?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): No, Sir.

Special Degree Courses in Engineering and Technology

*1439. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating special degree courses in Engineering and Technology for science graduates; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out by an expert committee.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the standard of the proposed special degrees will be in conformity with the course now being offered by other engineering and technological colleges?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It will be certainly of the same standard, but it will be slightly differently oriented, because, here, the student will come with a much higher standard of science.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether it is expected to be a course on the line of the post-graduate courses?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is not a post-graduate course. Actually, a course of this type already exists in the country in the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore, where graduates in science, generally first class graduates, are given a three-year course and they get the B.E. degree.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The details may be in the process of being worked out. But what are the broad details of this scheme and also its purpose?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The general purpose is this. At present, the students have to make up their minds about the engineering course immediately after school-leaving, but sometimes there are brilliant young graduates who have taken the B.Sc. or the MSc. degree and who later wish to go to the engineering line. At present, they have generally to take their chance with the I.Sc. students. This new course will enable them to enter at a higher level. The Kharagpur Institute is already considering the question of taking these students at the third year of the five-year integrated course.

It will be the general pattern that here engineering education will

be given to students with a greater content of science knowledge and who may probably later go for higher studies and more advanced work.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the facilities for this course, once adopted, would be extended all over by the Central Government in view of the paucity of such training or these facilities will be extended only in existing institutions?

Shri Humayun Kabir: They will, of course, be in the existing institutions. We do not propose to establish special institution for this kind of degree course. The Central Government, as hon. Members are aware, had been giving generous assistance in the matter of technical education.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: In view of the paucity of highly competent mechanical engineers in the country, what special steps are being taken to see that qualified engineers in this and other categories are available in the country?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There is at present almost an engineers' market. Engineers find employment rapidly. I think I told the House on an earlier occasion that formerly most of the engineers were in the civil side; now we are shifting the proportion to a greater extent to mechanical, electrical and other forms of engineering.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: When are the proposals likely to be finalised?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The expert committee which went into this question has now appointed a number of individual experts to frame syllabi on 8 subjects which have been taken for the present to provide this kind of special course.

Dr. K. L. Rao: In view of the fact that there is a wide difference contemplated in this course, will further special consideration be given before the actual course is started?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said just now, this course, in a sense, already exists. In Bangalore, it has been tried and it has proved very successful where B.Sc.s have been given the three-year engineering course. Now we are taking 8 special fields in which this course will be tried.

Rourkela Steel Plant

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*1440. { **Shri M. K. Kumaran:**
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Munzni:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the recommendations of the Solveen Mission on the performance of the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken to improve the working of the Plant on the lines suggested by the Mission?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The report of the Solveen Delegation has not been formally received by Government so far.

(b) On the lines of the informal discussions with experts of the Mission, certain action is being taken by Hindustan Steel with a view to improving the working of the Rourkela Plant.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: It appears from press reports that the Solveen Mission has given a very clear certificate to the German personnel connected with the planning and execution of the Rourkela plant, and the whole blame for defective working is thrown upon Hindustan Steel. May I know whether this particular aspect of the question has been considered