

Sardar Majithia: Possibly they do provide similar facilities.

Shri Joachim Alva: If a mighty nation like the United States gives out the figures of its Army, Air Force and other defence personnel, what objection has the hon. Minister got to give information regarding the number of orderlies in the Indian Army?

Sardar Majithia: For obvious reasons.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no use arguing this matter. It is left to the Government to decide whether it is in the public interest or not, to disclose the information, particularly in matters of defence.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether army personnel are drafted as orderlies for ex-Rajas—I mean ex-rulers?

Sardar Majithia: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. No. 287.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What about question No. 286?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has been transferred to the list of questions for the 3rd March, 1953, for answer by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

EMERGENCY OFFICERS

***287. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of emergency officers, directly recruited, have recently been released from service;

(b) if so, the number of such officers released in 1952;

(c) whether any active attempt has been made to absorb these officers in other Government Departments and if so, how many of the released officers have been elsewhere absorbed; and

(d) what benefits are allowed to these officers on their release?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) No.

(b) Only 33 officers who were granted Emergency Commission direct from civil life were released in 1952.

(c) Yes. Out of 33 direct Commissioned Officers released during 1952, two have been absorbed in Class II appointments in the Ministry of Defence. In addition, 84 officers who were released before 1952 found employment

last year in the Central and State Governments.

(d) Under the existing rules, Emergency Commissioned Officers recruited direct are not entitled to any pensionary benefits.

War gratuity admissible under the rules has already been paid to these officers.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: As for those who have not been absorbed yet, are the Government making any attempts to absorb them also?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, the Government are making attempts.

ELECTION PETITIONS

***288. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:**

(a) Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state how many Election Petitions were filed up to the end of December 1952?

(b) How many Tribunals were constituted to dispose of the petitions up to December, 1952?

(c) How many petitions are still pending before Tribunals?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) 342 petitions were filed up to the end of December last.

(b) 63 Tribunals were constituted.

(c) 232 petitions were pending before the Tribunals on 1st February, 1953.

Shri Nambiar: What will be the date by which all these petitions would have been disposed of, and we can think about the next elections?

Shri Biswas: That is more than I can say.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the name of the State which has the largest number of such petitions?

Shri Biswas: The numbers are as follows:

Patna	12 (In Bihar)
Ludhiana	11 (In Punjab)
Patiala II	11 (In Pepsu)
Jaipur	12 (In Rajasthan)
Rewa	18 (It is in Vindhya Pradesh, and tops the list).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How is it that any hon. Member is interested in some election not known to him?

Shri Gidwani: May I know in how many cases elections have been held

before final decisions were made by competent authorities regarding the rejection of nomination papers of the candidates?

Shri Biswas: I gave the numbers in reply to an unstarred question the other day. I have not got those figures here now.

Shri Gidwani: Do the Government propose to amend the Act?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Biswas: A Bill will be introduced shortly.

S.S.R.C. OFFICERS (PENSION)

***290. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:**

(a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total number of S.S.R.C. Officers in the Indian Army?

(b) How many out of this number are officers of the former State Forces and how many former I.E.C.O.?

(c) Have Government framed rules regarding grant of proportionate pension if the S.S.R.C. Officers are retained for more than 10 years?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose the actual number of Short Service Regular Commission Officers now serving in the Indian Army.

(b) Nearly 18 per cent. of the present strength of S.S.R.C. Officers were former Officers of the State Forces and 28 per cent. former I.E.C. Officers.

(c) S.S.R.C. Officers are entitled only to terminal gratuity. Even the permanent Regular Commission Officers with less than 15 years of service are not entitled to a pension. The question of grant of proportionate pension to S.S.R.C. Officers with more than 10 years service, therefore, does not arise.

S.S.R.C. OFFICERS

***291. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that S.S.R.C. officers are being granted extension from year to year?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): Officers who were originally granted Short Service Regular Commission in the Army for one year are being granted extensions for a period not exceeding one year at a time, if their services are required.

Officers, who were originally granted Short Service Regular Commission for

a period of 3 or 5 years, have been granted indefinite extensions for so long as their services are required.

Shri Lakshman Singh Charak: What are the reasons for the grant of extension from year to year?

Shri Satish Chandra: To whom, Sir? As I said, there are two categories of Short Service Regular Commission Officers. One is of those who were originally granted Short Service Regular Commission for a period of 3 to 5 years. They have been recently granted indefinite extension up to such time that it becomes necessary to release them. The others were given Short Service Regular Commission only for one year and I think that the reason for keeping them on is the prevailing political situation.

Shri Lakshman Singh Charak: What is the difficulty in the way of treating this category on the same basis as the other one?

Shri Satish Chandra: Probably, our army strength will not be able to absorb them and retain them for any length of time.

COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE SCIENTISTS

***292. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a meeting of Commonwealth Defence Scientists will be held shortly at Delhi?

(b) If so, what is the purpose of the Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes; a meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science is to be held in New Delhi from the 2nd to the 14th March 1953.

(b) The object is to co-ordinate scientific research relating to defence by providing an opportunity to the leading scientists of the Commonwealth countries in this field to meet and discuss problems of common interest.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know, Sir, if there is a system of regular mutual exchange of scientific information regarding defence as between India and the other countries of the Commonwealth?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, Sir. Only such information is exchanged which the exchanging countries can make use of. If it is no use for India to get information which she cannot utilize. Therefore, all such information which is of mutual interest is exchanged.