

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.