

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 is no use for India to get information which she cannot utilize. Therefore, all such information which is of mutual interest is exchanged.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is any safeguard being adopted in order to prevent the work of Indian scientists who are operating in the defence sector going out to other Commonwealth countries?

Shri Satish Chandra: I wish the House to realise that we have not made much progress in the field of Defence science. We only stand to gain by participating in such conferences. Most of our scientific research at present is not such as should be kept a very close secret.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is there not much danger of our Defence installations with scientific implications being open to inspection by many of these people of the Commonwealth countries with results which might prove disastrous to our country?

Shri Satish Chandra: Government does not consider so. Nor is it correct to say that they are visiting many of our Defence installations. Firstly, they are all friendly nations. Secondly, our Defence installations do not provide any such clues that the hon. Member has in mind.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has Government made sure that in the list of those who are coming as Commonwealth Defence Scientists, there are not army people who being to their Intelligence Service—under whatever cloak they may be?

Shri Satish Chandra: They are generally eminent persons connected with Defence science. The scientific delegation from the United Kingdom, for example, is headed by a most eminent Scientist who may come to scientific conferences even otherwise.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Is not the hon. Minister aware that many eminent atom scientists have acted as spies and have been hauled up.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not go into that. Scientists know scientists' hearts better. Let us not go into hypothetical matters. Every precaution is taken by Government.

Shri Joachim Alva: When was the idea of this conference mooted—was it before the reported move of Pakistan joining M.E.D.O. or after?

Shri Satish Chandra: This conference first met several years ago in the United Kingdom, in the pre-independence period. Then it was decided that they should meet regularly once in two years and have discussions on subjects of common interest. It has met from time to time. This

time it has been invited by the India Government to meet here.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is there any likelihood of the programme of this conference being changed in view of the fact that Pakistan is likely to join the Middle East Defence Organisation?

Shri Satish Chandra: Such questions are looked into by the Ministry of External Affairs. I do not think that Pakistan has joined M.E.D.O. so far. There are only vague reports. Anyhow, no change whatsoever is contemplated in the programme of the conference for that reason (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Some questions are put no doubt in view of particular things which may or may not happen, to know what is the attitude of Government. In fact the Government—the hon. Minister—might say easily that there is absolutely no such change intended. We need not go into other matters at all—one long answer followed by another long question and so on.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Is Pakistan also going to attend this conference?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, Sir.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या सरकार ने इस का इन्तजाम किया है कि जो कामन-वेल्थ सायंटिस्ट्स कानफरेंस ही रही है उसकी चीजें रशिया को न मालूम हों ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Commonwealth is not Russia.

Shri V. P. Nayar and Shri Nambiar rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there not a limit to the number of questions to be put? Their leader has already put a number of questions. No more questions.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

*293. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state how many persons have been obtained for his Ministry under the Technical Assistance Programme from foreign countries in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(b) What are the main subjects for which they have been secured?

(c) Are they working directly under the Government of India or are they allotted to institutions?