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Debate Room
Room No. F. 100
Block 10
Acc. No. 25057
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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 31st July 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTEGRATION OF STATE FORCES

*2359. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether all the State forces in Rajasthan, PEPSU, Madhya Bharat and Saurashtra were integrated with the Indian Army?

(b) If not, what was the number of State Forces personnel that was rejected?

(c) How many of these have been absorbed in other services?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Those units of the erstwhile State Forces of Rajasthan, PEPSU, Madhya Bharat and Saurashtra, which it was considered necessary to retain from the overall defence point of view, were integrated with the Indian Army. All personnel, however, who volunteered for service with the Indian Army were screened and those found fit were absorbed in these or other units of the Indian Army.

(b) 13,601 were rejected.

(c) 6,291, as far as available information shows.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How was the seniority determined when we were integrating these forces into the Indian Army?

Shri Gopaldaswami: If the hon. Member's question refers to officers, I believe the Selection Committee which sat on the cases of these officers who offered to be integrated into the Indian Army graded them according to their previous history and other considerations.

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Seth Govind Das: Have any of them been integrated in the Home Guards of the different States?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Quite a number of them—about 5,553—have been absorbed in the Police, Home Guards etc. in different States.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Besides the resettlement on land or the provision of cooperative societies for transport and other services to these people, have any of them been re-absorbed in the Army when vacancies arose or when we recruited new forces?

Shri Gopaldaswami: No, Sir. I could not give information as to whether people settled on the land were re-taken into the Army after such settlement. I think that that is the question put by the hon. Member.

Sardar Hukam Singh: No, Sir. Leaving aside those who have been resettled on land or in cooperative societies for transport or other services, have any of these demobbed forces been absorbed in the Army as and when occasion for new recruitment arose?

Shri Gopaldaswami: They have all been screened, Sir. I have already given the numbers who have been absorbed, both officers and other ranks.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Perhaps I have not been clear. They had been absorbed when these forces were integrated, but now when we want further and fresh forces to be recruited, would their claims be considered preferentially and would they be considered eligible for appointment in the Army when we want new recruits?

Shri Gopaldaswami: As I said, there was the first screening. Those rejected were rejected on the merits, but if for fresh units it is possible for them to make out a case that they are eligible for recruitment their cases will certainly be considered.