

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) and (b). The Board of Directors had authorised Chairman & Managing Director to initiate discussions with the Union on the demands of the workers. Negotiations with the Union are now in progress.

Recruitment in the Store Keeping Cadre in IAF

407. SHRI S.D. SOMASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been no recruitment in the store keeping cadre in I.A.F. when there are opportunities for recruitments in the equipment branch for servicemen every year/six months;

(b) whether Government is considering to raise the maximum scale of store keepers ; and

(c) whether the civilian store keepers in the I.A.F. will be allowed to apply for jobs outside when there is stagnation and insufficient promotional opportunities ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a ban on filling up of the vacancies of civilian personnel (except Typists and Stenographers) arising in the normal course, which can be relaxed in deserving cases. Recruitment to the cadre of airmen is made periodically to fill the established vacancies of airmen in the various trades including the trade of Equipment Assistant in the various units of the Air Force.

(b) The matter has, *inter-alia*, been referred to a Committee and will be processed on receipt of the Committee's recommendations.

(c) There is at present no ban on forwarding of applications of civilian store-keepers for jobs outside the Air Force.

Assistance to States to have separate Police Force to check offences of untouchability

408. SHRI PARMANAND GOBINDJIWALA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have, in order to prevent the offences with regard to untouchability, given help to States to organise a separate police force;

(b) whether such Police Forces have been organised in all States;

(c) if so, whether the desired results have been achieved; and

(d) if not, what further steps are being taken to prevent such offences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) : (a) to (d). The State Governments of Karnataka and Gujarat, who sought financial assistance, were sanctioned Rs. 2,02,100/- and Rs. 88,825/- respectively for augmenting the machinery for the enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

The setting up of a separate police force to deal only with offences pertaining to untouchability is not contemplated.

The State Governments have been requested to implement the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 vigorously on a priority basis. The State Governments have also been advised to consider the setting up of a cell or any suitable machinery to look into the grievances of Harijans. Special police cells have been set up by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh at different levels according to the local conditions, to deal with cases of violence against or harassment of Scheduled Castes and for the enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

Commendation Certificates to the Army Personnel

409. SHRI U.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel given commendation certificates for their outstanding heroic service during natural calamities like floods, in Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Assam during the last three years (1975-77) years wise and unit wise ; and

(b) whether these army personnel are given some financial or other advance increment or advance promotion benefits in view of their outstanding heroic services ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Recipients of Commendation Cards are not entitled to any monetary benefit. However, this award adds a favourable