

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 3, 1998/Agrahayana 12, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen

*61. † SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in the country as on date, State-wise with particular reference to Maharashtra;

(b) the amount provided for rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

As on 30.06.98, a total number of 14,53,013 ex-Servicemen were registered with Zila Sainik Boards in various States/Union Territories in the country. State-wise details of the registered ex-Servicemen are given in Annexure-I. The district-wise details of the ex-Servicemen registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in Maharashtra are given in Annexure-II.

There is no separate/specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen.

However, ex-Servicemen are provided financial assistance under the self-employment schemes. The amount of financial assistance provided to the ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes (SEMFEX) during last three years is given in Annexure-III.

The Central Government schemes and programmes for rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen are applicable to the ex-Servicemen residing in all the States including the State of Maharashtra. These rehabilitation schemes/programmes are as under:

(i) Reservation of vacancies for ex-Servicemen in Central Government, Central Public Sector Undertakings/Banks and the State Government of Maharashtra.

Central Government	Percentage of Reservation
Group 'C' posts	10%
Group 'D' posts	20%
Asstt. Commandant in Para-military Forces	10%
Defence Security Corps	10%

Central Government PSU/Banks

Group 'C' posts	14.5%
Group 'D' posts	24.5%

State Government of Maharashtra

Group 'C' posts	15%
Group 'D' posts	15%

(ii) Other concessions provided to ex-Servicemen:

(a) **Re-employment:** Ex-Servicemen are provided relaxations in age and educational qualifications for employment in Government jobs. Training programmes are also arranged for improving the employability of ex-Servicemen in Government jobs and for taking up self-employment schemes after retirement.

(b) **Self-Employment:**

(i) Loan facilities are provided to ex-Servicemen under Semfex-I, II and III schemes for setting up self-employment ventures.

(ii) Eight percent of petroleum product agencies are reserved for allotment to the widows/dependants of posthumous Gallantry Award winners, war-disabled, war widows etc.

ANNEXURE-I

*Number of Ex-servicemen Registered
with Zila Sainik Boards in various States
and Union Territories as on 30.6.98.*

Sl. No.	ZSBs	No. of Ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54,995
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	204
3.	Assam	14,969
4.	Bihar	56,456
5.	Goa	1,443
6.	Gujarat	11,402
7.	Himachal Pradesh	73,981
8.	Haryana	1,46,155
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	45,479
10.	Karnataka	42,712
11.	Kerala	1,21,965
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26,845
13.	Maharashtra	1,30,397
14.	Manipur	3,337

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	1,705
16.	Mizoram	3,930
17.	Nagaland	1,976
18.	Orissa	14,148
19.	Punjab	1,80,539
20.	Rajasthan	94,460
21.	Sikkim	1,095
22.	Tamil Nadu	99,746
23.	Tripura	1,528
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2,53,644
25.	West Bengal	34,497
26.	A & N Islands	425
27.	Chandigarh	5,291
28.	Delhi	28,501
29.	Pondicherry	1,188
		14,53,013

ANNEXURE-II

*Number of Ex-Servicemen Registered
with Various Zila Sainik Boards in
Maharashtra As On 30.6.98.*

Sl. No.	ZSB	No. of Ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	5244
2.	Akola	1742
3.	Amravati	2440
4.	Aurangabad	2057
5.	Beed	1808
6.*	Bhandara	683
7.	Buldhana	3116
8.	Chandrapur	952
9.	Dhule	995
10.*	Gadghiroli	72
11.	Jalgaon	2126
12.	Jalna	644
13.	Kolhapur	8068
14.	Latur	1731
15.	Mumbai City	17043

1	2	3
16.	Mumbai Upnagar	2468
17.	Nagpur	4311
18.	Nanded	550
19.	Nasik	3739
20.	Osmanabad	2369
21.*	Parbhani	665
22.	Pune	12240
23.	Raigadh (Alibag)	3145
24.	Ratnagiri	4298
25.	Sangli	13519
26.	Satara	16918
27.	Sholapur	4816
28.	Sindhudurg	3440
29.	Thane	7128
30.*	Wardha	1342
31.	Yeotmal	728
		130397

*There are no Zila Sainik Boards in these districts: The work is being looked after by the respective Collectorates.

ANNEXURE-III

Statement Indicating State-wise Details of Loan/
Financial Assistance Disbursed to Ex-servicemen
Under SEMFEX Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	1	2	3

1. Andhra Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	0.50	1.18	—
SEMFEX-III	—	0.12	—

2. Arunachal Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	—	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

3. Assam

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	1.11	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

4. Bihar

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	0.25	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

	1	2	3
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5. Goa

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	—	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

6. Gujarat

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	2.20	—	—
SEMFEX-III	0.44	0.83	—

7. Himachal Pradesh

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	6.50	—	—
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

8. Haryana

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	37.72	47.80	16.36
SEMFEX-III	—	—	—

9. Jammu & Kashmir

SEMFEX-I	—	—	—
SEMFEX-II	1.35	0.20	—
SEMFEX-III	2.47	4.35	—

	1	2	3		1	2	3
10. Karnataka				15. Meghalaya			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	20.19	11.56	1.50	SEMFEK-II	—	0.25	0.41
SEMFEK-III	4.85	—	—	SEMFEK-III	0.34	0.08	—
11. Kerala				16. Mizoram			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	1.25	—	—	SEMFEK-II	6.57	3.82	2.30
SEMFEK-III	2.16	—	—	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
12. Madhya Pradesh				17. Nagaland			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	3.05	0.82	1.00	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	0.18	—	—	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
13. Maharashtra				18. Orissa			
SEMFEK-I	0.39	0.26	0.33	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	45.20	56.32	20.04	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	1.40	82.89	2.04	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—
14. Manipur				19. Punjab			
SEMFEK-I	—	—	—	SEMFEK-I	—	—	—
SEMFEK-II	—	—	—	SEMFEK-II	—	—	—
SEMFEK-III	2.60	—	25.33	SEMFEK-III	—	—	—

	1	2	3
20. Rajasthan			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	10.91	9.53	47.73
SEMFEI-III	2.64	7.50	—
21. Sikkim			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	40.92	11.23	8.38
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
23. Tripura			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	0.53	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
24. Uttar Pradesh			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	177.89	48.49	73.32
SEMFEI-III	15.86	3.99	5.50

	1	2	3
25. West Bengal			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	0.18	1.12	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
26. A & N Islands			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
27. Chandigarh			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
28. Delhi			
SEMFEI-I	1.0	0.50	0.50
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—
29. Pondicherry			
SEMFEI-I	—	—	—
SEMFEI-II	—	—	—
SEMFEI-III	—	—	—

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply given to my question that there are approximately 14 lakh and 53 thousand Ex-servicemen. In part B of the question I had asked the Statewise amount provided for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen, the Minister in reply told that any separate or specific budget allocation has not been made for the rehabilitation of the Ex-servicemen. There are 14 lakh and 53 thousand Ex-servicemen, which is a huge number. These soldiers, fight with the enemies, for the protection of the borders, they fight with the terrorists and sometimes they get injured and sometimes become disabled. I was surprised after reading the answer that there are 14 lakhs Ex-servicemen, but the Government neither made any scheme for their rehabilitation nor allocated any amount for their rehabilitation. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether it is the responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate these Ex-servicemen who guard our borders and due to which we take sound sleep at our homes. If so, whether the Government intend to allocate a particular amount for the purpose?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is necessary to explain the things said by the Hon. Member in response to the question. The Central Government as well as the State Governments are responsible for the rehabilitation and re-settlement of Ex-servicemen. It is not true that we are not doing anything for them. The question of Hon. Member was whether any separate budget allocation has been made for them or not? No separate allocation is made for it in the budget. Welfare work for them is done on many levels. It will be better to provide such information in writing, but I would like to present it in details. The first thing is that as the Hon. Member has said that there are more than 14 lakh Ex-servicemen. They are of different age groups and having different calibre or abilities and efforts are made to provide them some other employment on the basis of age and ability.

Several programmes have been adopted for this purpose. The very first thing is that now the practice of providing training to them before the retirement, keeping in view their ability has been started, earlier it was not there. After that the process of placing them in any employment begins. First of all they have got the reservation in the Government jobs. Here reservation does not apply in the normal sense as per the constitution but in group C and group D categories of the Government jobs they got 10 and 20 percent reservation respectively whereas in the Public Sector undertakings and in Nationalised Banks, they have got 14.5 percent and 24.5 percent reservation respectively in all the posts of Group

C and Group D. Apart from that they have got 10 percent reservation in the posts of Assistant Commandant in paramilitary forces. There is a Defence Security core in the Department of Defence and the security of all the offices, institutions, etc. related to the Ministry of Defence as well as Department of Defence is in their hands. There the Ex-servicemen got their salaries etc. at par with the armed forces and cent-percent posts of the Defence Security core are exclusively reserved for Ex-servicemen. Apart from that the State Governments have also given some reservations to these Ex-servicemen in their own ways, although there is no symmetry in this regard in each State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of self-employment is concerned there are several such schemes in which full support is extended to the Ex-servicemen for the self-employment or to create any other means of livelihood. Apart from that assistance is provided through the Directorate General of Rehabilitation for setting up security-agencies. There are 400 such institutions at present, which are functioning at 1100 places. Thousands of persons are employed there. Our Ministry, its Directorate General of Rehabilitation and State Governments work together to perform these tasks. There are Sainik Boards in each district, every State. This responsibility is shouldered by them.

There may be difficulties in doing this work with required speed because the recruitment is possible only when there are jobs. But whatever is possible, is being done. So, the doubt of hon'ble Member that the ex-servicemen are being completely neglected, is baseless.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, you must put a brief supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, hon'ble Minister has stated that for Ex-servicemen there is 10 percent reservation in group C posts and 20 percent reservation in Group 'D' posts and there is 14.5 percent reservation in group 'C' and 24.5 percent in group 'D' posts in public undertakings of the Union Government and Banks. There is 15 percent reservation in group 'c' and 'd' posts of Maharashtra Government. All this reservation is for Ex-servicemen.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Ex-servicemen are getting jobs as per the reservation announced and whether his Ministry has conducted any

enquiry in this regard and if not, whether the Government would conduct an enquiry in this regard now?

I want to say that many facilities are provided to Ex-servicemen, but the information of these facilities does not reach to the Ex-servicemen. The common jawan do not have this information. Does the Ministry of Defence propose to publish any booklet which could provide information about the schemes for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is not correct to say that the Ex-servicemen do not have the information about it, because when a soldier retires from the service, he gets his name registered in Central Directorate and other places for the job.

Secondly, the institution at state and district levels undertake the work in their own ways and the Ministry takes the required initiative in it. Now the question has been asked whether we monitor the reservation in this regard? Yes, Sir, monitoring is done and as far as the reservation in Central Government services is concerned, I would like to tell that the Ex-servicemen have got 50 percent group 'D' jobs and 56.60 percent group 'C' vacancies have been filled last year. Therefore, the monitoring is being done. But there is a problem that some years ago, a Government order was issued that the security agencies set up by Ex-servicemen should be provided security work in all public sector undertakings. Now almost one year back, in November-December last year, the said order was withdrawn. It was withdrawn on the basis that now there is open market and there should be no restriction of this kind in open market. However we are trying and having talks with various Public Sector undertaking, to re-employ the Ex-servicemen for security purpose there.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the details given by the hon. Defence Minister. If you see the third column of his reply, State-wise figures of disbursement of loan have been given. If you see the figures of 1997-98, you can find that the amount disbursed to all these people seems to be very much negligible. It does mean that the Government is not that much serious to look after the welfare of all these Ex-servicemen. Wherever we go, we come across a number of Ex-servicemen with petitions and complaints regarding their deputation, etc. Therefore, my question to the Government is whether the Government is really serious to look after the welfare of all the Ex-servicemen. If it is so, what is the percentage

of various kinds of jobs provided to the Ex-servicemen? Are these respected Ex-servicemen getting any facility from the respective Governments in the reservation of tickets in air, rail and bus services wherever they go?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has furnished the datas about Self Employment Scheme. So, as far as Self Employment is concerned, we have three kind of schemes in this regard. The matter of disbursement would arise only when the schemes are availed by the Ex-servicemen. Therefore it is not possible to reach at any conclusion in this regard.

As far as the employment is concerned I will not be able to provide datas as to how many people have got jobs now because all this work is done in different states. We have got the datas with regard to the number of the people who have got jobs in the departments of Central Government. But I do not have datas with regard to the jobs provided in private sector, public sector or banks and in various departments of State-Governments in the entire country. It is a substantive point that they are insulted and not only these Ex-servicemen but soldiers who are in service are also meted out the same ill-treatment. You just talked of railway, they have complaints in this regard also. Recently a survey was conducted in which large number of Military men complained that they face difficulties in getting reservation. We have taken many steps to redress this complaint. But with it, they also complain that they are meted out such ill-treatment as of they want to keep them away. They complain it orally. But the Ministry has its own limits in this regard. We have to learn to respect the jawans of the army in the entire country and the Ex-servicemen who have served in the army. All of us will have to make efforts in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I am happy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling only those Members who belonged to the service.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir I want to say one thing that I am a soldier and as a soldier, I should also get an opportunity to speak in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call your name, after Shri Rajesh Pilot. Your name is there with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised today as to whoever sits on these benches, starts speaking that same language. Those were the days when Mr. George's speeches about the Ex-servicemen used to be fiery. Shri Madan Lal Khurana who never sat and on his legs always, now sits there silently. This is because of these benches ...*(Interruptions)* We are on our legs. I agree with the hon'ble Minister and the figures given by him that the Government have definitely made efforts to resettle Ex-servicemen during the last 8-10 years. But my point to the hon'ble Minister is that a high-powered Committee was constituted during the years 1980-82 when Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. That Committee had given about 50-60 recommendations, out of which some recommendations were accepted and some were not accepted. Then, some recommendations out of them were accepted and rest remained pending. We had given a suggestion that the persons discharged at the age of 30-32 years from the Infantry, have no future. We wanted that some percentage should be reserved in the para-military forces so that they could get direct entry from 15 to 20 percent in the para-military forces from Infantry. This way the money to be spent by the Central Government on their training could be saved and they would get safe career. What is the view point of the Government in this regard?

My second question is stand of the Government about the reservation for S.C., S.T. and other sections of the society which we carry forward in some public sector undertakings or other institutions. Whether Government propose to carry forward the reservation for Ex-servicemen. As the public-sector we visit the same excuse is made that they could not get the person during the one year and the reservation gets lapsed after one year. So, percentage fixed therefor also becomes meaningless. What steps Government are taking in this regard?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my last question is whether Shri George Fernandes had made commitment before the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate that if they came to power, they would make provision for one rank one pension. You have made some efforts in this regard but half-heartedly. By the grace of God you are the defence minister. At that time you did not have the charge of defence. Would you now be able to provide one rank one pension?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You have referred to one of the decisions of the High Powered Committee. Although there is provision for recruitment in the para-military forces now but the response is not so good. As you have stated that a person who is discharged from the services hesitates to join para-military forces that is somewhat embracing the same job. I do not know, but that is our experience. Before saying so, we have interacted the people at various levels. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You are not giving the seniority in that. That is why they are hesitant. If the seniority is continued, they are ready to come.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There are some problems like the problems of the recruits of the para-military forces came to fore. Some problems of this nature are there. In addition to that we have felt that jawans are not ready. They are of the opinion that they have just completed 15-17 years of service in the defence services and do not want to join that type of service again. They want job nearby their residences so that they can live with their families. This type of desire grips them. But there is no vacancy for them where they can get job.

You have just talked about one rank one pension. This is true that we have raised this point not once but several times. Several political parties have given their opinion on this matter. Our cabinet note is ready for one rank one Pension. It would be issued within a few days. Thirdly you have talked about carry over. That is also good. There should be no objection to that.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion on Ex-servicemen is being held here. There are two types of soldiers. But discussion is held on one type of soldiers only. Second type of soldiers is like me. Who is a soldier of Indian National Army I was shot in my leg in 1944 in Burma, I have given in writing that whatever I have done, that was my duty towards my mother land. That is why I never sought 10 acres of land and pension. I have been elected for the fourth time to this House. Just now hon'ble minister was saying that such people are respected I do not want respect but I want to say that there are so many people of this category. Have you sought any figures about them. If not when will you ask for that. I am 77 years old, my colleagues may die in a year or two. I just want to say that such category of soldiers, is still there who shed their blood on the behest of Netaji. They are not being given due respect.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has told his problems what response should I give. We share his concern but what more does he expect, I am not able to understand.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : I have just said that they are given respect but I did not hear about giving them due respect so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble minister has told about several schemes for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. If any Ex-serviceman expires before the implementation of these rehabilitation scheme, his family has to face a lot of problems. I want to know from the Hon'ble minister as to what schemes they have for such of the families of those Ex-servicemen who die before implementation of these schemes and what effective steps they are going to take for them?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The schemes which are meant for Ex-servicemen would be solely applicable to his wife or his heir.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, in our country, about 60,000 ex-servicemen retire every year out of which about 12.5 lakh ex-servicemen are registered with the Kendriya Sainik Boards. These Kendriya Sainik Boards were raised during the British Raj some time in 1917.

They are not able to do any meaningful monitoring. For the ex-servicemen, the hon. Minister has brought out a lot of schemes but most of the schemes are only on ground. The first part of my question is this. The Army Headquarters and the Air Headquarters have sent a proposal to have a separate Ministry. I know that the hon. Minister may not be able to part with his Ministry but at least they should have a separate dedicated Department which should monitor only the problems of this matter. This proposal is with you.

The Kendriya Sainik Boards were raised in 1917. Nobody listens to them. They do not have any monitoring power. Can you give some statutory powers or some sort of a thing so that they can be very effective in implementing whatever schemes that you have brought out?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this involves figure. You had mentioned about 12 lakh soldiers, in fact, total number of 14,53,013 soldiers are registered in the various Sainik Bqards at the district level. Besides, the war widows—the wife of the soldier who died, or the soldier who died after his retirement the issue you just raised here, they are also registered with the Sainik Boards and their number is 2,74,632. This figure is upto June, 1998. At present, a total of 17,27,645 soldiers are registered with these Boards.

The hon'ble Member has asked about the functions of these Boards. This is a fact that there are lot of responsibilities on the district level and state level Sainik Board and these responsibilities are not being discharged by them in the manner they should be. Few months back, I wrote to all the Chief Ministers regarding the problems being faced by the soldiers and requested them to take concrete steps to mitigate their woes. One of the Chief Minister has responded and assured me action on one or two issues but no other Chief Minister has taken any pains to write back to me except acknowledgments of my letters in this regard. I think almost four months have already been over. Therefore, there are problems. Besides, there are rules also that the Chairman of the Sainik Board at the district level should be an ex-army officer but in most of the cases, they are not ex-army officer. Normally, political civil persons have been appointed there therefore, nothing is moving. In fact, between the soldier and such chairmen, no relationship is forged and nor do they take interest in the welfare of soldiers as they have not gone through that experience. Therefore, there are problems. It is not possible to carry out this job without the cooperation of the State Governments because the only half of the total expenditure incurred on the district Sainik Boards and the State Sainik Board is met by the Ministry of Defence. However, the desired results are not being achieved. If I am able to get the cooperation of all the Members I do hope, that I shall be able to sort out several of the problems being faced by us at present.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : You yourself are saying that you are helpless, no Chief Minister is writing back.

[English]

Why do you not bring a Constitutional Amendment Bill for this purpose? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is not a satisfactory answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The question is not about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If it would have been possible for the Ministry of Defence to take steps in this regard or there would have been some scope for the ministry in this regard then, we would have no objections. But the powers of the Central Sainik Board are very limited and for monitoring purpose only. The State Governments have to take steps on their level in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have expectation from you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But it is not possible for me to fulfil your expectations going beyond rules. ...*(Interruptions)* If you all allow then we shall come up with amended rules in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : We want the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We will all support you...*(Interruptions)*

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : We will all support you ...*(Interruptions)* The whole House is supporting you.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : O.K. I shall come with amended rules in this regard.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : The whole House is supporting you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government of India has given any instruction to the State Governments to recruit ex-servicemen in educational institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this issue has not come up keeping in view the specific qualifications in educational institutions therefore no such order has been issued about the educational institutions.

[English]

Draft Legislation on Security of Airports

*62. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a draft legislation on security of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey on the security arrangements at various airports in the world has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposed legislation on airport security is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a), (b) and (e) A proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Inspection of the security arrangements at various airports in the world is done as required from time to time.

(d) During, the last 4 years airports at Tokyo, Hong Kong, Osaka, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, Rome, Kathmandu, New York, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Tel Aviv have been inspected.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the difference between the airports in our country and that of the other countries as the airports in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Osaka, Paris, Hithro, Geneva, Rome, Kathmandu, Newyork, Singapore and Colombo as these were inspected by you. How the airports in those countries are maintained and how these are maintained in our country? We have seen that there are such airports in our country where stray buffaloes could be seen, we have many times seen such scenes at the Nagpur airport. What is the difference between the airports in our country and other countries from the safety point of view, will the hon. Minister tell us about that?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The Commissioner of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Security has made an inspection of all the mentioned airports during the last four years. Our security measures are on par with the international standards. In the country, we have 120 airports in which 55 are functional, others are quasi-functional. Even in these airports, we have made three different categories—33 are sensitive airports, 14 are hypersensitive airports and 19 are normal airports and whatever security measures we are taking for these airports are more than adequate.