

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is going on. Neither you understand rule nor any other thing.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, we are in great difficulty. We don't get a chance even during Zero-hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You want to do what you like. It is not good.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: My question about the border roads is very important. My area lacks roads most. I have also the right to ask question.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Surya Narayan Yadavji, this is very wrong. You are not following the rules. This is Parliament. You should remember it. Please sit down now. Not like this. This is very wrong on your part. You are not following the rules. You do not know how to behave in the Parliament. This is not correct. There are many others who want to ask the questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, if you allow me I can clarify.....

MR. SPEAKER: You can call him to the Office. If he wants to carry on like this, I do not appreciate it.

Encashment of Leave

*638. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether entitlement of leave encashment for Central Government employees was enhanced from 180 days to 240 days w.e.f. July 1, 1986;

(b) whether this enhancement has been made effective in the armed forces from the same date;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken to remove these disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) The ceiling for accumulation and encashment of Earned Leave in respect of Central Govt. employees governed by Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 was enhanced from 180 to 240 days w.e.f. 1.7.86 on the recommendations of the 4th Pay Commission.

(b) and (c). Armed Forces personnel are not governed by the aforesaid rules. The 4th Pay Commission did not make any such recommendation in respect of Armed Forces personnel. For them a new formula for accumulation and encashment of leave based on the proposal mooted by the Army Hqrs has been implemented w.e.f 30.12.91.

(d) In view of the reply to (b) & (c) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to my question clearly proves that there is a slight discrimination between our armed forces and other Central Government employees. Since I have been associated with armed forces, I use to meet them and due to this discrimination a sort of resentment is growing in their mind which may be a factor to demoralize them. We should not forget that risking their lives our armed forces fight on borders, while we including all Members and Minister stay comfortably in our houses. They protect our borders and our country. Therefore we should pay special attention to providing them facilities. If the employee of the Central Government get any facility, the armed forces should also be treated at par. As the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Forth Pay Commission had not made any such recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Sir, I am coming to the point. As the period of leave has been enhanced from 180 to 240 days, the same provision has been made for the Central Police Organisations and Para-military forces but it has not been implemented in respect of the armed forces. Through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he resolves to do away with this discrimination and disparity? If the Government intends to implement these provisions, by what time it will be implemented in respect of armed forces?

[English]

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: Sir, I would like to categorically refute the opinion expressed by the Member that the Government is discriminating against the armed forces. On the other hand, the Government is interested within the financial constraints in making available to the armed forces the maximum possible facilities because we are aware of the difficult conditions under which they serve and their commitment and their sacrifices to the country. But, we cannot *pari pasu* compare any single concession which is given to the civil sector and make it immediately applicable to the defence sector. The emoluments and service conditions in the civil services have come under the Central Government rules whereas the service conditions of the defence services have evolved progressively under the various regulations of the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts. It is not only impossible but also it is undesirable from the point of view of the armed forces to ask for a parity in any single element of these two dispensations because armed forces have several advantages in emoluments and service conditions. If I may list a few, with your permission, the rank pay, the technical pay, the qualification grant, the special pay, various allowances relating to house rent, house construction, electricity and other charges, school-going children allowances, remote locality preparation allowance, annual leave which is double, fur-

ough leave which is more, group insurance, rations, canteens, stores, etc. are special to the Armed Forces. There may be certain elements in the civil sector where the civil sector has a particular advantage.

I may also add that even though it was not immediately given, the Defence Ministry has, after careful consideration, extended the enhanced facility of encashing of Earned Leave to the Armed Services also. We have implemented a graded scheme from 30.12.1991 by which people who have rendered fifteen years of service can encash leave up to 180 days; with seventeen years of service, up to 210 days; and with 22 years of service, up to 240 days.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that there is a little problem of finance, but this problem is in every field so if economy measures are applied only in defence services then it is not good. Secondly he has said in his reply to the question that there is a lot of difference between the service conditions of the Central Government employees and the personnel Armed Forces. The later have been provided many benefits. Keeping in view the circumstances under which they work as also their service conditions, whatever they are getting is proper and in my view, facilities available to them should be further increased. It is your kindness that you have shown some favour to them. You have provided some additional facilities also under the service conditions, but you have made them effective from 30.12.91.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: I am coming to the question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not coming to the question. Many other Members also want

to ask the questions. You cannot make a speech here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question only. You have admitted that this facility has been provided to the armed forces too with effect from 30.12.1991 as the Army Headquarters had sent such a proposal. My question is that the decision regarding the Central Government employees was taken in February 1990 but it was made effective from 1st July, 1986, then why haven't you implemented the decision concerning armed forces with effect from 1st July 1986 which has been implemented from 30th December, 1991 and if you are going to implement it with effect from 1st July, 1986, how long would it take to issue orders in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRIS. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the present leave conversion allowance order which had been issued in 1991, is a separate scheme and has been sanctioned on different considerations. There is no precedent of giving retrospective effect to any of these concessions; all these are prospective. From 1986, there has been a proposal for giving this concession to the Armed Forces also. This was considered at various levels. First, the Government thought that this may not be entertained because we do not want – nor do the Armed Forces really want – all the leave which the Armed Forces have especially in the border areas, to be encashed. We want to keep the youthful and healthy profile of the Armed Forces. A certain amount of recuperation and rest is obligatory, which is integral to military training, and we do not want at the end of their career, to encash all the leave and remain in station and not take the leave. This was the rationale within which this was first objected to. Later on, modified scheme which is not equal to the civilian scheme, had been sanctioned in 1990–91, after a great deal of debate and discussion between the Army Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that the hon Member, who was asking question just before me was saying that the morale of our army personnel goes down. I would like to tell him that the morale of our army never goes down due to these things and such things do not have any effect on them. Our armed forces are the best in the world. Our army personnel are working in the places like Siachin and are protecting our country and our borders round the clock. I would like to know if keeping all these things in mind, Government intends to enhance the facilities and to increase the allowances to the jawans when they go on leave?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the operational personnel in Siachen are entitled to series of benefits taking into account the difficult terrain conditions and the high morbidity and mortality rate there. As regards the second part of the question, postings of the armed forces personnel from hard stations to peace stations are decided by rotation and that takes care of the hon. Member's concern expressed in the second part of the question.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply, just now, talked about the graded system of leave encashment. He has said that people with 15–17 years of service can accumulate 180 days of leave; with 17–22 years of service can accumulate 210 days of leave and above 22 years of service can accumulate 240 days of leave. Thus, it means that a person having more than 22 years of service can only avail full encashment of leave and at the same time persons having less than 15 years of service cannot encash more than 180 days of leave as per the old rules. The logic of having a graded scale is not understood. I request the hon. Minister to please clarify as to why the army personnel are not being allowed to accumulate leave right from the beginning of their service, like their civilian counterparts.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The hon. Member would appreciate the fact that such concessions, especially the leave accumulation benefit, are somewhat related to the length of service. The length of service of the civilian personnel is different. The time of recruitment is different and the retirement of the personnel is different. In the Army the retirement age is between 35 and 60 years, depending on the rank. This has been decided taking all these factors into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Question No. 639.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to Defence Forces.

MR. SPEAKER: You, please ask the supplementary, I will give you a chance.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: I am talking about the national interest. Proceedings are being telecast by Doordarshan, therefore, this question should not be allowed to be asked in the House or if question has to be asked, then TV telecast should be stopped. I am not objecting as Shri Shahbuddin has asked the question but this question relates to the defence.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is a part of general knowledge. What are you talking?.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will tell him

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: This is secret information*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No such information has been asked in it which might

infringe the secrecy of our defence.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The entire proceedings of this House are held publicly. At present anybody may note down the proceedings and may hand over to anybody.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: The question hour is being telecast. This information may go outside the country.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will deal with this. You please sit down. I am allowing the question. Why are you prevailing upon it?

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Let his remarks be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need at all to expunge it.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let us understand that all the proceedings in the House are public proceedings. There are members sitting in the gallery. There are press people sitting in the gallery. Every word which is said and spoken here is published. If it is shown on the T.V. also, it is not going to affect any secrecy of the Defence Ministry. Members may understand this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHEEDI PASWAN: * *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This does not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not forming part of the record

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, these are aspersions because he has challenged the Chair.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: I am not challenging the Chair. I respect the Chair. I respect the people of this country. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. It is a question of understanding, it is not a question of challenge. yes, you carry on.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: How has the Congress embraced a communal person.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, it should not form part of the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I want to warn the Members that this TV understands the intelligence of all of us over here also!

Cantonments and Military Stations

*639. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cantonments and military stations in the country at present with their total area separately for cantonments and military stations;

(b) the difference between cantonments and military stations in terms of the military-

civilian ratio among the residents, land use and provision of municipal service;

(c) whether it is proposed to abolish the cantonments to convert them into military stations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUR): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

There are 62 Cantonments and 299 Military Stations, covering 1,89,706 acres and 2,53,478 acres respectively.

2. Cantonments and Military Stations in peace areas are towns designed to house troops along with their families. Cantonments are stations notified under the Cantonments Act 1924 for purposes of Local Self Government. Military Stations are not so notified. The support services like up-keep of roads, disposal of garbage, water supply, sewerage services etc., are done in Cantonments by the static civilian population under the Cantonment Boards. These functions are performed by the concerned Station Headquarters in Military Stations.
3. There is no fixed ratio of Military and Civil population in Cantonments or in Military Stations. There is no supporting civilian population in Military Stations and the minimum essential civilian staff for support services are employees of the Central Government.
4. There is no proposal to abolish Cantonments.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, the reply given by the hon. Minister makes a clear conceptual and functional