

(iv) LEGISLATION FOR WELFARE OF JAWANS.

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit): The soldier is highly acclaimed during war, but quietly forgotten in peace time. The nation observed the 'Ex-Servicemen's Week' from September 1 to 7 and it is time for a reappraisal of what we owe and are doing for these men who have made supreme sacrifices for the country.

The special debt every Indian owes to the soldiers, sailors and airmen, pledged to lay down their lives in defence of India's territorial integrity, should not stop with statutory pay and allowances, however decent these may be, compared to IAS, IFS, IPS and other Secretarial services. Defence Personnel deserve a special consideration, very much different from those applicable to the Civilian Personnel.

India's most crucial war against Pakistan in 1971 ended in spectacular victory for which an estimated large number of officers and men of the armed force made the supreme sacrifice. Many thousands more were seriously wounded and disabled.

In the wave of popular enthusiasm following victory, industries and business houses volunteered to provide jobs to the wounded and the disabled. These efforts, though noble, were uncoordinated and haphazard. Soon, however, even these efforts and offers of help were forgotten.

The case of the servicemen during peace time is no better. Some six thousand officers in the 45-52 age group retire or, are forcibly retired every year to 'keep the forces fighting fit'. Much more shocking, some 50,000 Jawans are retired every year when they reach the age of 36. After giving the best years of their lives in defence of the motherland, guarding inhospitable frontier regions under exacting conditions, these men are

forced to live on a meagre pension rapidly reduced in value due to inflation. Their retired life is indeed a tragic life. They are too old to begin a second career.

How callously neglected is obvious from a recent case of a Param Veer Chakra winner working as a lowly watchman in a semi-Government godown. It came to light because a Minister met him by chance, expressed shame at the unfortunate fate of the winner of Nation's highest award for gallantry during war.

What is now needed is a Jawans' Welfare Bill, to be enacted by Parliament for the systematic readjustment in civilian life of compulsorily 'retired' servicemen and war veterans, able and disabled.

The Bill can well be based on the model of the American GI Rights Bill enacted in the wake of World War II. Under the Bill U.S. Government undertook to provide funds for higher education and vocational training, the grant sufficient enough to cover purchase of books, tuition fees, living allowance for single or married veterans. It also guaranteed loans to veterans to buy a home for farm or start business.

The Indian Jawans Bill for welfare must also have provision for creating a Central Jawans Welfare Fund.

I urge upon the Government to bring a legislation soon in this respect.

(vi) SUPPLY OF GOOD QUALITY SEED AND FERTILIZER TO THE FARMERS OF U.P.

श्री दिगम्बर सिंह (मथुरा) : उत्तर प्रदेश और विशेषकर मथुरा में किसानों को उचित मात्रा में गेहूं का बीज नहीं मिल रहा। रासायनिक खाद में मिलावट की जा रही है। बिजली की सिंचाई के लिये बहुत कमी है। नहर का पानी नहीं मिल रहा। बीजल में मिट्टी का तेल मिलाया जा रहा