

[Shri Khadilkar]

and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend Rule 325 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KHADILKAR: I beg to move:

"That this House do extend the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House upto the 30th April, 1968."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House upto the 30th April, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

13.04½ hrs.

CENTRAL SILK BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Sir, on

behalf of Shri Dinesh Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.05 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69—
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: We have still about a hour and a half for the Defence Demands. The Congress benches have just 17 minutes left to their credit and the Minister needs much more than that. But some Opposition parties have got still time, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, like that. So, after that, the Minister will reply at 3-30 P.M. I extend the time by half an hour. Let us see. Now we adjourn and meet again after lunch.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 1-4-68.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

‡Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69—
contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the first time since 1963 the Defence Budget has this year crossed the thousands-crore mark and this too at a time when the total Plan outlay is showing a downward trend. In other words, the burden of Defence is getting proportionately heavier. From the economic point of view, of course, this is also a matter of some concern. The ex-Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Mr. H. V. R. Iyengar was quoted recently as having stated at a meeting which he addressed in Calcutta on the 13th February that, in his opinion, the basic cause of the present so-called economic recession is this gigantic defence expenditure. Of course, nobody can suggest for a moment that there should be any relaxation in the matter of defence preparedness.

The essential minimum structure of the Defence system cannot possibly be cut down or scrapped at present. Unfortunately relations with our neighbours continue to be unhappy and, therefore, we have to remain prepared while exploring at the same time all possible avenues of bringing about a peaceful settlement of our disputes with them and restoring some sort of good-neighbourly atmosphere. Meanwhile, Sir, a relentless war has to be carried on against wasteful, infructuous and unproductive expenditure of all kinds in the name of this Defence Budget.

In this respect, Sir, we go on complaining every year that in this matter, Parliament's control still remains very limited restricted and unsatisfactory. Sir, this year, it is no different. In the name of public interest so many

things are withheld from us and this luxury that we are indulging in, having an enormous Defence Budget which is absolutely separate, an independent entity separate from the General Budget—I do not know how long can we go on affording it, a blank cheque for a thousand crores, given to the Defence Ministry, virtually to spend it as it likes because unlike other Ministries, we are not able to get at many facts. They are not revealed to us and we have no alternative to keep quiet because, in the name of public interest these things have to be kept confidential, we are told. Therefore, a sort of iron curtain, in the name of public interest, has been drawn over this question of defence spending.

Sir, even then, many things come to light from time to time through the Press and little glimpses here and there which are thoroughly disquieting. If you go through the reports of the Public Accounts Committee though they have dealt with some isolated aspects of the question or the Estimates Committee or the Audit Report on Defence, it is enough to indicate some very disturbing features. These reports which I have no time to quote at length talk explicitly about the lack of cost-consciousness in the Defence organization. They mention how lakhs of rupees have been wasted by the incorrect assessment of the requirements for stores and spares. They talk about even such alarming things as improper storage of aero-engines stored in such a way that great damage and losses have been incurred. They talk about certain inordinate and inexcusable delays in the execution of certain projects dragging on from year to year. They talk even of such things as Rs. 28 or Rs. 30 lakhs being incurred as losses by the Military Dairy Farms. There is a whole report of the Estimates Committee which you must have noticed about this transfer of the Metallurgical Research Laboratory from Ishapore to Hyderabad. Upto this day we have not been given

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any satisfactory explanation, convincing explanation as to why this was done. A laboratory which was situated in close proximity to a complex of ordnance factories on which it was dependent was shifted at great expense to Hyderabad and we were told that only a small cell would be maintained in Ishapore and now we are told that even that cell is proposed to be shifted to Hyderabad. It is very surprising and the country gets the suspicion that some political reasons have motivated this transfer. But I am more interested for the moment in the cost involved and whether it was worth it or not. I want to know whether anyone was ever brought to book for the squandering of these resources which are meant for the essential defence of this country. On the other side there were certain expense items which were over-due for an increase, for example, the outlay on defence research, which I have been bringing up every year and I am glad to see that at least some small increase, though inadequate, has been sanctioned this time. Secondly, Sir, there was a question of the increased concessions and allowances for the jawans. Here we have been told that an amount of between 16 to 17 crores is to be spent this time as per the recommendations of the Kamat Committee. This is good as far as it goes. But we hold that the investment on this score, that is, in improving the condition of the jawans, heightening their morale, making them more contented and not to be anxious about the lot of themselves and their families is an investment which can never be adequate enough. At the same time counterbalanced with this, we see some very peculiar, what I may call, false ideas of economy which have been practised, which I do not consider a correct stop at all, which is short-sighted and which will lead in the long run to negative results. It is a question of penny-wise and pound-foolish. For example, I would mention the cut which is mentioned in this report in the field rati-

ons, in the Service rations, of rice, wheat and atta. It is shown here, with great pride, that they are going to save some lakhs of rupees on that. What kind of economy this is, I do not know.

I think perhaps they have been influenced by the famous remark which was made somewhere by Prof. Galbraith who said that there is something indecent about having well-fed armies in poor countries where people are starving. I do not know whether this is the philosophy that has guided them. We certainly do not want a starving army in the middle of a starving population. Therefore, I would like these cuts to be restored even if it would mean some hardship to the civilian population.

Then there is the question of the sudden, total abolition, I am informed, of the allowances and concessions which were being enjoyed all this time by the personnel of the Military Engineering Services in important key or forward areas, known as 'sensitive areas', in Jammu and Kashmir, in Darjeeling, in Siliguri, in Bagdogra and other areas. These concession which they have enjoyed since 1948 on the ground of these being sensitive areas are suddenly going to be abolished. There is going to be a cut in the free rations, housing, uniforms and so on. In this report itself they talk about Nathu La, Cho La and Jammu and Kashmir and all those centres as being very sensitive and strategic areas and at the same time the Military Engineering Service operating in those very areas are deprived of these concessions on the ground that these are not sensitive. What are we to believe in? How do Government want to carry conviction us? I do not understand it.

Then, there is the question of the trained apprentices in the ordnance factories. 6000 trained apprentices who have been taught their jobs to man these ordnance factories are not

being absorbed at the conclusion of their apprenticeship terms. I am just giving a few indications to show the type of savings that have been made. If this is their idea of how to bring about savings, then I am afraid that in the long run it is going to lead to very negative results in terms of hardships and as far as the morale of the people is concerned. This is not the way to practise economy.

As far as the civilian employees of the ordnance factories and defence establishments are concerned, when they are thinking in terms of planning, why do they go on conceding something or the other from time to time in a piece-meal fashion? Why should they not put it on a regular basis? The employees have been asking for a wage board. Let there be a comprehensive wage board appointed for these defence employees. Let them go into the whole question and come to a decision. And then let Government regularise and stabilise the position. At present what is happening is that there is a continual agitation, Government then give some piece-meal concession, then again the workers are not satisfied and then something else happens and so on. Why not have a wage board? In all these matters which I have indicated, I think the policy which is being followed now is somewhat lopsided and unbalanced. The real places where economy is to be effected are partly indicated in the reports of the PAC and the Audit reports and so on. We do not know at all what is being done in regard to them, because we are not told about it.

Regarding progress towards self-reliance in defence policy and defence production, much has been said already on this matter by the hon. Minister the other day and much is written in the report of the Ministry also. I do not wish to minimise for a single minute the substantial progress which has been made in matters of defence production. To the extent that we have advanced, that certainly is a matter on which I have no hesitation

in congratulating the people concerned. But I regret to say that on the whole this progress in very halting and slow and the basic reason for this is the continuance of certain mental inhibitions from the past. What do I mean by this? I charge this Government with the fact that even now after so many years, after acquiring so much experience, they are not able to overcome that old softness in defence matters towards the United Kingdom, and more latterly towards the USA, in spite of what is happening all around us and what we are seeing. Is it because we have tied ourselves up in technical collaboration matters with the United Kingdom for the Leander Frigates or for the Avadi tank factory or for that factory at Chanda which refuses to go into production to produce what it was originally meant to produce? Is it because of this tie-up that we refuse to shed that old softness? I would like to pose another pertinent question in this regard. In 1965 during the conflict with Pakistan, the role that was played by the UK Government was decried by the entire nation. There was indignation and there was wrath here and bowing to the national sentiment, this House and the country were assured and in practice also that was done for some time, that our Chief of Staff and so on would give up the old procedure of going to England every year to participate in what used to be called Commonwealth defence exercises, where Pakistan used to go, where we also used to go and where the British High Command used to be present. When the whole calamity of 1965 burst upon us it became evident that we were the losers and never the gainers from participating in that kind of thing under the aegis of the UK Government, and, therefore, we gave it up. In 1966 and 1967 this was not done. I want to know who has authorised this Government now, whether it is the consensus of national opinion that now again quietly by the backdoor as it were we are again resuming this kind of thing?

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Now suddenly we have found that sometime ago something called 'Exercise Unison' was held in the UK. Maybe this is a new name to cover up the old Commonwealth Defence Exercises. To this Exercise Unison, our Chief of the Army Staff was sent along with other high officers. Please do not tell me that this was purely a goodwill visit, because it was not. It was something where some conference, consultations and exercises took place. We are not told anything about it. I say that a free country, following the national sentiment which expressed itself so forcefully at that time, after the 1965 clash which exposed the perfidy of Britain vis-a-vis us, ought not to have gone back on that.

Then there is much talk now-a-days about what is called a new vacuum developing in the Indian Ocean area because the British have announced their pull-out more or less from Singapore and the Far East stations. Papers and commentators are now offering advice to the Government that a vacuum is being created, the implication being that all this time while the British were there there was no such vacuum. By this we are only exhibiting our old mentality of slavery, that we were depending upon the British for these 200 or 300 years for protection. There was no vacuum. But since the British are pulling out from Singapore and other bases and since the British fleet will not be operating like it used to in this area, everybody is saying: vacuum, vacuum, somebody will come into this vacuum. Somebody says the Chinese will come; somebody else says the Pakistanis will come; therefore, we should do something to enter into some pact with somebody or other, because we have got no big fleet or navy of our own.

I know the Americans are very fond of this word vacuum. In their country, in every house, there is a vacuum cleaner. They have the

vacuum cleaner mentality, and wherever the British pull out, they enter. Now, the tendency of the Americans would be much more to convert what was once a 'British lake', this Indian Ocean area, into an area coming under their influence, because, as you know, they will have to pull out from Vietnam very soon. The writing on the wall is clear that the US should quit Vietnam. You probably know the depth of the Vietnam crisis in which they are involved so much so that at least President Johnson, that arch warmonger, has officially announced that he is not going to stand for Presidentship. Newspapers have already reported this in special editions. He has also been obliged to order some amount of de-escalation of the bombing of North Vietnam. The great Tet offensive launched by the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam is digging the grave of the Americans there and sooner or later, the Americans will have to quit. So they would think of somewhere else, an intermediary area in the Indian Ocean where all those island bases are being set up slowly by them and the British, which matter has been raised in this House so many times, the question of bases in Diego Garcia and other islands in the Indian Ocean where they have for some time been setting up small bases and small stations, refuelling stations and so on. This is what is going to happen in this vacuum, what is being described as a vacuum.

I was not one of those members who supported the demand by some members that we must divert a huge amount of our defence expenditure on the navy. For practical reasons, I was not in favour of it. Now of course, we find that in this vacuum which is being created, we should at least have some minimum amount of naval presence of our own to act purely as a sentinel, nothing more; we cannot aspire to be a big navy power. But we also do not want incidents to take place here as took place some-

time ago with the American spy-ship *Pueblo* in the North Korean territorial waters. If something like that were to happen near our coast, we do not even have the means by which we can intercept or check it. . .

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli): Perhaps it may be going on.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yes. Now at least some submarines are being acquired, or have been acquired, not, of course, from the Americans or British—they won't give them to us—but from the Soviet Union. I am glad at least—my friends to my right may not be—that at the present moment a goodwill visit by Soviet naval units is taking place. They are the people who have stood by that commitment to us. I would like the Minister, when he replies, to tell us frankly, not to beat about the bush, as he has done in this Report, as to how much of the British and American commitments in respect of defence which have been made to us since 1962 has been fulfilled, how much remains unfulfilled. Every year I raise this, but no reply is given.

What about the Ambajari plant? What about the Chanda plant? What about the radar which was promised in 1962 and has not yet come? What about the HF 24, the pathetic attempts being made to raise it to supersonic capacity? You cannot do it, because neither the Americans, nor the British have come forward with the aid they promised, and we are left with no interceptor aircraft. We have to spend a lot to buy obsolete Hawker-Hunter aircraft. Now we are hoping the Mig will come on the production line. I saw to-day that the Chief of the Air Staff was banking on the Migs that we are going to produce in India. MIGs are still a long way off. In the meantime, Marut, HF24 was talked of; what is its condition? What are you planning? How many crores are you spending? You have neither the industrial base nor the designing talent nor production engineers... (Interruptions.) to live up to the promise.

The policy of black mail is going on and Pakistan is being allowed to buy Patton tanks via Italy while in our case we are told that only non-lethal spare parts would be exported to us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member must conclude.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am concluding. I had raised a question last time; I hope I may get a reply. Why are you spending some lakhs of rupees on some private American citizen called Mr. Bragg who is supposed to design or build helicopters for the Indian Air Force in Simla? It is now several years. I know because I have had occasion to visit Simla. The prototype that he has made refuses to get off the ground and remains static but these people are spending lakhs on that. I think today is the anniversary or birthday of the Indian Air Force. I am sure the whole House would join me in sending our greetings to the gallant young men of our Air Force, I want to ask whether we are doing our job towards them.

Since my time is up, I shall refer to only one more matter. Could the hon. Minister tell us what the qualifications of Mr. Subramaniam are to head an expert committee on aeronautics? This committee is now rushing around the world inspecting both military and civilian aircraft and seeing what we can acquire. Simply because he is unemployed for the time being, has Mr. Subramaniam been given this job?

Finally, when in the field of conventional sophisticated arms by modern standards we are still perforce, for a variety of reasons having to lag behind, it is sheer madness to talk about nuclear armaments in the country. We cannot do it; it is beyond our capacity. Our country will be ruined. If we depend on somebody else's nuclear umbrella it is saying goodbye to our independence. Therefore, I support the conditions and

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qualifications which the Government of India have raised with respect to the non-proliferation treaty. Our cause will always be suspect so long as we do not make it clear that we are not going to make it. The countries of Asia and Africa are taking basically the same stand towards the non-proliferation treaty consistent with their national sovereignty and security, that is, their unrestricted right to go in for peaceful uses of atomic energy. They are otherwise prepared to sign that treaty. Here is a chance for India to take the lead. Let them come forward. As far as our defence system, based on conventional weapons, is concerned, let us try to go with a better sense of accountancy, national honour and stand on our feet and let us go ahead.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF (Ramanathapuram): I am highly grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Government has to give more importance for the defence of the country and for the protection of our independence and territorial integrity. This becomes more important and assumes significance because of the aggressive and unfriendly attitude of neighbours, particularly, China and Pakistan. In such circumstances, we cannot afford to go weak; we shall have to maintain substantial forces of land, sea and air to protect ourselves. Here, I want to pay my tribute to our soldiers who are protecting our frontiers under difficult circumstances in abnormal climatic conditions. The morale of our soldiers, I am happy, has always remained high. I would like to emphasise to organise our defence forces more and more on the modern techniques and try to obtain from whichever sources sophisticated equipments, latest aircraft fighters and submarines. Further development of our ordnance factories is also very important in this context. It is gratifying to note that the defence research and development organisation has made increasing contributions

to the indigenous development of defence equipment and stores and in meeting the growing scientific needs of the armed forces.

Here I would urge upon the Defence Ministry the need to give more attention towards the development of the Navy; coming as I do, from the South and that too from the eastern coast, I have to emphatically point out towards the need for adequate defences of our coastline in the South, both in the west and in the east. This vigilance over the eastern coast and the surrounding areas has assumed greater significance because of the latest claims of Ceylon on the Kachchativu Island and of Burma on the Narkadum Island.

The report of the Defence Ministry speaks about the effort initiated during the past years to modernise and strengthen the Navy. The report mentions about the commissioning of the first fleet tanker, INS Deepak, and the recruitment of 3,820 sailors. But all this is not enough. More allotment should be made for the building up of our naval strength in the present juncture.

Sir, permit me here to emphatically contradict any claim laid on the sovereignty over Kachchativu island by the Government of Ceylon. This tiny island has always remained as our Indian territory and is as sacred and valuable to us as the Vijay Chowk in Delhi or the Fountain area in Bombay. This tiny island of about three square miles is about only 10 miles from Rameswaram, one of the most important pilgrim centres in India. It is easily approachable from Rameswaram by boats. It is wrong to say that it is an uninhabited area because though there are no lights, roads or buildings, the fishermen go over there from Rameshwaram and the maintained of India and stay for about five or six days in the week. This island was part and parcel of the Ramnad zamindari. Records pertain-

ing to the enjoyment of the said island of Kachchativu by the Raja of Ramnad, of my constituency, are still available and if permitted I can place the copies of these records on the Table of the House.

I have with me the copies of the following records: (1) Lease deed dated 23-6-1880 registered in the Sub-Registrar's office, Ramnad, as document No. 510/80 on 2-7-1880. The lease is for five years in favour of Janab Muhammad Abdul Kadir Marakayar and Thiru. Muthusamy Pillai for gathering "Saya Ver" etc., from plants known as Umiri plants. (2) Lease deed dated 4-12-1885 registered as document No. 134/85 on the file of the Ramnad Sub Registrar's office. (3) Lease deed dated 26-7-1947 for three faslis from 1-7-1947 to 30-6-1949 registered as document No. 278/48 in the Sub Registrar's office, Rameswararam. (4) Lease deed of 1913 of the Government of India relating to chank fisheries for 15 years. This lease was extended up to 1936. Kachchativu is one of the items of the lease properties. (5) Letter ROC No. 445/A2/50 dated 20-4-1950 of the Administrative Secretary to the Raja of Ramnad to the Estate Manager for having sent the files relating to the lease of chank fishery covering the period from 1929 to 1945. (6) Map giving the area of the chank beds of the Ramnad Zamindari drawn by Thiru. R. Ganesan, D.I. of Fisheries with the covering letter dated 19-2-1943 of the Assistant Director of Pearl and Chank Fisheries, Tuticorin. Kachchativu is one among the islands shown in this sketch. (7) Note dated 19-2-1922 submitted by the then Diwan Thiru. R. Subbiah Naidu to Thiru. R. Raja Rajeswara Sethupathy, the grand-father of the present Raja of Ramnad and his endorsement dated 27-2-1922 on the same.

I only desire that the defences of this little island must be strengthened so that our Government may not

continue the process of losing bits of our territory, so sacred and valuable to us. This island will assume greater significance and importance when the Sethusamudram Project is executed. The Sethusamudram Project should be completed soon, as our ships will then have uninterrupted passage.

Recently, a large number of emergency commissioned officers have been released. They must be helped to secure alternative jobs and the capacities of these trained personnel should not be allowed to be a waste.

I hope all these points will receive earnest consideration. I would conclude by saying that the Government should retain its responsibility and show no slackness whatsoever in improving our defences. In the present world weakness will never pay and the strength will always secure a position of honour and prestige.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Bolan-gir): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, speaking at the fag end of the debate, there is hardly any ground which has not been covered yet. Yet, I would like to speak on a few specific points. Firstly, the armed forces of any democratic country act according to the directives relating to the foreign policy and its domestic policy which is formulated and based on enlightened national self-interest. But, in the case of our country it has resulted in continuing violation and loss of our territorial integrity and sovereignty and our pitiable isolation in the world. Sir, I would like to quote Clause wise classic maxim about "war being an extension of the political action." So, we can say that the failure of our defence policy in the past has been the failure of our foreign policy. In the years before the Chinese aggression our foreign policy

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was based on *Panch Sheel* which spelt out the message of peace and passivity. Consequently, the armed forces were neglected to the point that they were ill-equipped and ill-trained and they were so demoralised that the enemies of India did not take it seriously. So, whether it was the fear of the ruling party that by strengthening the armed forces they might be replaced or not, God alone knows that, but the position remains that the army had become demoralised and very weak, with disastrous effect in 1962 during the Chinese aggression.

There is a lack of clear-cut aims and objectives. The size and the composition of the defence forces have to be determined by the commitments of our government, according to our foreign and domestic policies. This inertia has had a telling effect on our defence forces and this has been largely responsible for the accelerated expenditure now on defence, which has crossed the Rs. 1,000 crore mark.

Unless there is reorientation in our thinking and unless our foreign policy can pull its weight our Government cannot afford to counter an attack either by Pakistan or China or by both in collusion. If we think that the Chinese aim in India, is not military then it must be political. It pays it to extend its political philosophy through subversion and the elimination of subversion depends upon our political and economic climate and not on our military strength alone. Sir, the public the Parliament and the country are totally in the dark about the Government's long term strategy as far as defence is concerned. Whenever we ask any questions, it is always shrouded and kept away from us as if we are doing something to our country's peril.

If it was the intention of China in 1962 and of Pakistan in 1965 to make India raise its defence production beyond the point of incompati-

bility with sound economic policy, they have succeeded very well, as can be seen from the budget figures. Mr. Morarji Desai affirmed in his budget speech that there was the greatest need to scrutinise India's defence expenditure very carefully to see that the scarce resources were not unduly diverted away from economic development. It is also abundantly clear that economic development cannot occur without assured national security. I would now like to bring out a few points.

From the Defence Ministry's report, we find the following figures. Value of stores recommended for disposal Rs. 83 crores; value of stores recommended for disposal by the competent authority Rs. 63 crores and so on. The total value of surplus stores for disposal amounting to Rs. 204.70 crores. If we had the correct aims and objectives and kept our future in proper perspective, why is it that such a large volume of stores are now being got ready for disposal?

While on economy, I wonder whether we are using the most efficient budgetary techniques. If not, a considerable wastage is being tolerated, because very little information is available for reasons of security and any attempt to ask questions about this is turned down.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the works programme in the report. There are 1219 work projects costing approximately Rs. 45 crores sanctioned by the various competent financial authorities under the emergency works procedure, while 17 projects costing Rs. 2 crores were sanctioned under normal works procedure. I want a clarification whether this emergency works procedure is subject to scrutiny and if not, there remains a doubt as to the expenditure of Rs. 45.27 crores.

I come to the modernisation of our defence forces. The Minister of State was very eloquent in his intervention last week when he said that two-third of our armed forces have been modernised. He painted a rosy picture of defence production. On that matter, I would bring out certain facts which have come out in the eighth report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on HAL. I would briefly quote from this press report:

"The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha has suggested that IAC be made to rely on the indigenous aircraft industry and gradually standardize its fleet with Avro-748s. It has expressed doubts about the wisdom of starting the HS-748 project and felt that since a large sum had been invested in it some method should be devised to make it useful.

In its eighth report on Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, it also expressed concern at HAL undertaking production of various types of aircraft without having orders for them. In some cases action had been initiated on making certain types of planes on mere indications from indenters. Subsequently, expected orders had not materialized."

It felt that orders with indemnity provision should precede any such programme.

I would like to quote something from the Report itself. Under the heading "Cost of Production" it says:

"The Committee are surprised to note that an essential item like the cost of production was omitted from the project Report, with the result that HAL which took over the project at a later stage had no idea about the cost of production of this aircraft. The Committee recommend that the cost of production of the aircraft at

various stages should be worked out without delay."

In paragraph 67 under the heading "Cost of Production" it says:

"The Ministry have stated that estimates of cost of production from sub-assemblies, details, raw materials and profitability had not yet been worked out in the case of three factories of the MIG complex. These estimates had not also been included in the Project Report. The supplies to IAF would be on "cost plus profit" basis. The quantum of profit was yet to be decided. HAL had not been able to make any reasonably accurate estimates of production costs and financial results for the factories so far."

This is a very serious matter.

Then, under the heading "Electronics factory" it says:

"The Electronics factory at Hyderabad according to the production programme drawn up with the help of collaborators, had to start production of fully assembled sets by end of 1966, and from sub-assemblies from the beginning of 1967. These two stages have been achieved. There are delays cropping up at present due to non-receipt of plant and machinery, raw materials, tools, etc. in time which is mainly due to the closure of the Suez Canal.

The Committee hope that the delays in receipt of equipment will be reduced to the minimum possible limit so that production programme is not affected."

Here I would say that we should depend more on our indigenous production than on such calamities like the Suez crisis and all that.

Then I come to the Bangalore Division. While we are proud of the fact

[Shri K. P. Singh Deo]

that HF-24 Mark I is going to be the first supersonic aircraft which will be produced by our own engineers, I would like to say that if we are to keep up with trends and our defence needs and if the Government is aware of its actual needs, the HF-24, Mark I and Mark II, as compared with the Mirage which is nearly of the same type, is below standard. The word "standard" is a relative term and if we want to get the best out of our available resources, we should do a little bit of re-thinking about HF-24 Mark II and we should see that HAL comes up to standard so that it can be compared with the Mirage as far as fire power, speed and manoeuvrability are concerned, because it is going to be our only interceptor apart from the MIG.

While dwelling on the HAL, I would like to bring out that in the Nasik Division of HAL in the works which had been taken over by the Maharashtra Government for the HAL, a lot of defects have come up, the major ones, according to the Public Undertakings Committee, being inadequate water proofing of buildings, cracks in floor slabs and concreting of the runway. In spite of requests, these rectifications had not been carried out in a satisfactory manner. But nothing in this matter has been done to follow up. While in Orissa for the Aero Engine Factory at Koraput the Government of Orissa came to an agreement with the Government of India, through HAL, in 1963 that all the civil and electrical works for this project would be done by the Government of Orissa at a agency rate of 10 per cent instead of 17 per cent laid down by the Government of India. They have so far done work worth Rs. 9 crores, which has been highly commended by such an eminent persuage as Dr. Khosla. But yet, in violation of that Agreement, the Government of India, in a breach of contract, without terminat-

ing the contract formally and in utter disregard of the Government of Orissa's organisation there, have put about 300 Engineers under a Chief Engineer on the job who are in that organisation have asked for open tenders. I would like to know from the Defence Minister whether he can clarify the position as to why in spite of Orissa giving advantage of carrying on the work on a concessional rate of 10 per cent, such a step-motherly treatment has been meted out which has been unanimously condemned in the Orissa Assembly. The other day, the hon. Minister was vexing eloquent on my friend Mr. Vishwanathan and Mr. S. Kandappan, of the DMK not to be parochial and to be broad-minded. I would like to know whether he is broad-minded and non-parochial in this respect of non-Congress Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): We have not taken up the construction work. The hon. Member is not aware of the real position there.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: In today's papers, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of our Air Force, the Air Chief Marshal Arjun Singh has brought to light the strategic importance of the air force and its role of a defence and effective deterrent for India's defence. So, this callous and indifferent attitude towards defence development, specially towards the aircraft industry, is absolutely and blatantly letting down the country and the Services.

In an article by Air Vice-Marshal Harijinder Singh, Retired, he has termed the present Indian Air Force as an "United Nations" of aircraft, having aircraft manufactured in Russia, America, Britain, France and other countries. So, I would like to know the wisdom of having a fleet of aircraft which are obsolete and, at the

same time, so varied in technique and in production.

While adding pips to the high-ranking officers which will not only cost us more than Rs. 5 lakhs annually in the form of salaries, but a lot more indirect expenses will go up as far as providing amenities which go with promotions, like, for instance, foreign staff cars for Lt. Generals, increased guards and orderlies, bigger houses with air-conditioning facilities and furniture and discretionary funds at their disposal and all sorts of things are concerned. Whereas nothing much has been done for the jawans so far as separation allowance is concerned; the officers, when they go out—I am subject to correction—I believe, they get Rs. 75 per officer as separation allowance. I would like to know if there are any such things being done for the jawans also. Secondly, when a jawan is serving and if there is any violation of the law in the case when a jawan's land is leased out to a share-cropper and when he goes home, he has to go through a lot of legal hanky-panky before he can get back his land. I request the Government to take it up with the State Governments and see that jawan's land, during his absence, is not subjected to this sort of a thing.

The next point is about the education of the children of armed forces. I hope the Government will take more pains in starting central schools so that the children of jawans can get adequate education because in the case of movements or transfers of the armed personnel, their children face a great deal of difficulties as far as pursuing their education is concerned. Sometimes the jawans, airmen and naval ratings have to work in uncongenial conditions of inadequate accommodation and lack of comforts like shortage of married quarters etc.

Now I come to the Emergency Commissioned Officers. At a time when the country was facing a grave crisis and was in the danger of being over-

run by the Chinese aggression in 1962, young men from all walks of life rose magnificently and answered to the call of the nation to save the integrity and the sovereignty of the sacred motherland. We are not yet out of the woods by any chance, but the Government have discharged the Emergency Commissioned Officers with the promise that they would be rehabilitated. I would like to know what the Director of Resettlement has done in this regard. As far as my knowledge goes, even letters written by the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry remain unacknowledged even by public undertakings and autonomous bodies regarding rehabilitation of the Emergency Commissioned Officers. Even in the case of battle casualties, not a finger has been lifted and papers regarding pension, etc., have not been finalised as yet. The bureaucracy here is the same as in the other Ministries. I hope, the Defence Minister will look into this and see that it improves.

My next point is on buffer States. Firstly, Tibet was sacrificed to the Red Dragon. After the 1962 Chinese aggression, Bhutan and Sikkim have started having second thoughts about our capability and Nepal is more friendly with China than with India. The Britishers, though you may call them imperialists and colonialists or whatever you may say, had the foresight and the discretion to safeguard India from Chinese aggression and other types of aggression by keeping these buffer States. Now we have not only sacrificed Tibet but we have also lost that security which they had provided us. With the increasing interests of foreign powers in our political life as well as in our country, when Indian nationals and elements are getting active and open finance, materials, explosives, training and guidance from foreign powers and are operating in highly strategic border areas, and when super powers like Russia and America, directly or indirectly, are helping Pakistan by giv-

(Shri K. P. Singh Des)

ing helicopters, arms, tanks and all sorts of things, it is high time that our armed forces kept themselves in preparedness to meet such eventualities.

¶ ¶

Being the largest democracy in the world and one of the leading countries in South East Asia and the Afro-Asian nations, of which we are the self-styled leader, we should take the initiative for a joint security in South East Asia to fill the void when the British fleet pulls out of Singapore. I would have been as happy as my colleague, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, if the Russian fleet, which has come to Madras, is on a goodwill visit alone, but, I think, there is something more in that visit than just good-will. If you remember, last year my leader, Mr. Dandekar, in his speech on Defence Budget, spoke about the geo-political and geo-physical situations which should be taken into account. The growth of the Russian maritime power has been one of the most important geo-political developments of the post World War II. A weak coastal defence force twenty years ago, the Soviet Navy today is only second to the United States of America. The Soviet Navy has been used as an arm of its foreign policy, as exhibited in the West Asian crisis and the Pueblo incident in North Korea. We seem to be following everything which Russia is doing and we have, in fact, become its satellite. At least we can take this example and make our Navy more effective, if we have to keep our integrity and sovereignty.

Before concluding I would like to say that the Territorial Army, which is the second line of defence in the country, has failed to attract any young men in imparting military training. And it has become a dumping ground for those officers who are just going to retire and the case of the last three or four Directors-General will bear out my conviction, and hence

no interests is taken for its effectiveness. Before ending I would like to say a word about this Aeronautical Committee headed by Mr. Subramaniam. On the 3rd of March he has gone to the United States with the Joint Secretary, Mr. Krishnaswami Whatever is his name. He is supposed to have gone on a lecture tour as well as to meet some civilian and military authorities as far as development of aeronautics is concerned. I would like to know if such an important portfolio as the development of Defence Services is the dumping ground for defeated and discredited ex-Congress-Ministers devoid of knowledge of aeronautics. Who is paying for the lecture tour or the tour as a whole?

15 hrs.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra):
Sardar Saheb is paying for it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Ranjit Singh. Just 10 minutes.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH (Khalilabad):
Ten minutes for me, Sir, your favourite member? Last time you were good enough....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have got only 9 minutes to your credit. One minute by grace I give you.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: 20 minutes I require, Sir.

Last year when we had the Defence Debate we were shocked to hear the Defence Minister meaningfully deliver his meaningless reply. Members in this House were so agitated at his vague and incomplete answers and quetision after question was hurled to seek a more complete reply. The Defence Minister had then said that it was the first Defence debate to which

he was replying and therefore we should understand his innocent ignorance then. But, now, Sir, full nine months have passed since the said debate—Yes, Sir, I can see that you also agree from the twinkle in your eyes that nine months is enough of a time for the Defence Minister to bring forth correct, complete and well-shaped answers to vital questions.

Now, what are those vital questions? The first and foremost question is: what is the purpose of our maintaining an armed force? A simple answer—for the defence of the country—brings forth the bigger question—How? Certainly no country can be defended by presenting its armed forces to the enemy as a shield to be battered or a gaseous punching pad. What shall be done if the pad is punctured? Therefore, I will request the Government each of its Members and all their supporters to grasp the modern meaning and purpose of Defence.

There is only one purpose of creating and maintaining a Defence force as agreed to by all modern tacticians, strategists and statesmen. National defence envisages the readiness to conduct offensive action for annihilating an attacking enemy. You cannot sit back and absorb an enemy attack. What did we do, Sir, in September 1965? The then Prime Minister, indeed, the whole House, realized the futility of passive defence and we immediately switched on to the offensive. And offensive action means war. In 1965 we went to war with Pakistan. Now, Sir, having seen the purpose of Defence as being the capacity to launch an offensive action, where do we stand in that respect? This is a direct and categorical question and I request you to seek from the Defence Minister a straight and lucid answer.

The other vital question is: what is the Government's definition of a war? War has certain stages—four to be precise—confrontation at the frontiers.

insidious infiltrations through the frontiers, open violations, across the frontiers and occupations beyond the frontiers. Will the Government answer my second question—at what stage will they take offensive action?

AN HON MEMBER: Your own definition.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: In the case of Pakistan, they took it at the second stage of infiltrations—I accept it. Why are you then vacillating now to launch an offensive action against similar infiltrations in Nagaland, Mizo Hills and other areas in Assam.

Last time, Sir, for the first time we raised on the floor of this House the question of the Government having no defence policy and no national war aims having been formulated. The Defence Minister had given the most disheartening and demoralising answer, "There is no question of war aims. Our policy is to defend our country." Yes, indeed, to defend our country, but how, Sir, how? Is it the way they defended us against China or the way they defended us against Pakistan? If they chose the latter, as I am sure neither this House nor the people nor their own Party will permit them to repeat the former, then would you not go on the offensive as you did in 1965? I ask the Government this question, Sir, what have they done to create that offensive capacity in the country? I will have to answer this query myself, for how can the Defence Minister be expected to answer it when his main concern is how not to answer a question, though seeming to do so.

Firstly, let us consider the strength of our forces. Strength is the sum-total of numerical strength, firepower, mobility manouvability and above all morale. We are spending a huge amount on our defence forces

[Shri Ranjit Singh]

Are they numerically sufficient? We have an army which is 0.2 per cent of our population. Red China's is 0.75 per cent of its population, Free China 8 per cent, South Korea 10 per cent, North Korea 10 per cent, Israel 10 per cent and our neighbour Pakistan 0.5 per cent. Proportionately then even Pakistan has a much larger army than ours.

The reason why we feel its burden most is not that the forces are too large but that the increased requirement for them has not been matched by the economic development of the country. Compared to us with only one-thirtieth of foreign aid received by it, Taiwan has become an exporting nation in eighteen years. The deserts of Israel have been set blooming to export foodgrains. Within all their economy shattered, the humiliation of defeat demoralising them, Germany and Japan girdled their loins and exploded into the world as two of its most stable nations in the same period as we have taken to touch the bottom of the pit. The remedy to the pinch we feel, Sir, is not to reduce the forces but to gear up our economy. Our Armed strength is actually most inadequate. You know that against Pakistan we matched them division for division. This was not because we wanted to do that, but because we did not have the forces. Our Seventh infantry division and fourth mountain division, when they moved into battle had only two brigades each instead of three each and at least two of these four brigades had only two battalions each instead of three. On the entire front from DBN to Gadra there was no air defence protection for front line troops, gun areas and forward defended localities. Against our one division and one brigade of armour Pakistan had two over-strength armoured divisions. The situation is still the same. They have a greater armoured force than us. We can meet this deficiency by increasing

our anti-tank potential. But our fossilized ideas will not permit us to change the organisation of our forces till Britain or Russia or US suggests it. Well, Sir, not having the will, not possessing the means, not having the interest and lacking the intelligence to increase our armour strength, will the Hon. Minister examine the creation of RCL regiments on jeeps? Israel had them for outflanking the Arab armour and in the battle of Elqantara majority of the Arab tanks were destroyed by jeep mounted RCL units. Many suggestions could be given but the Government is not receptive and that is why we demanded a Standing Committee. Some gentlemen opposite spoke in its favour but then voted with the Minister to defeat the resolution.

About our ability to launch a counter-attack, we lack the mobility. We lack the equipment and therefore manoeuvrability. That is why when one of our division reached the front in 1965 it found that for four days its formations and units could not reach their positions for lack of mobility. This was the 10th Infantry Division mentioned last year by Shri Niti Raj Singh Choudhery.

Lack of mobility in a formation may be due to internal or external or both causes. Lack of proper transport, faulty loading tables, faulty organisation and faulty dispersal are internal causes. Lack of communication facilities, bottlenecks like weak bridges narrow and bad roads, lack of proper loading and unloading platforms, lack of transshipment facilities, multiplicity of rail line gauges are the main external hindrances to mobility. The Government has not thought of inter-departmental coordination ever from the view of Defence in order to remove transport bottlenecks. In this connection I will give one example. In 1948 when the First Armoured Divi-

sion was moved by road to Hyderabad side for the Police Action we had to leave our Churchill tanks behind because some brigade and culverts enroute were not strong enough to bear their weight. No improvement took place for seventeen years and Sir, even in 1965 our most important bridge on Lahore front feeding the sectors of Dograi, Burki and Kasur, the bridge at Beas, was not capable of taking Centurion tanks and they had to be taken across the railway bridge. Thus you will see that defence is the joint concern of all the Ministries, and the country could benefit if all departments and Ministers took enough interest in defence to attend the defence debates. Otherwise, they will remain as blank as unconcerned and as non-contributive to defence as the hon. Defence Minister himself.

Therefore, for increasing the mobility of the defence forces concrete steps must be taken and coordination of all departments ensured. A commission with all Ministries represented in it could go through it all.

I shall now deal with some very essential points raised in a very fine speech by one of our most admired Members who is now unfortunately fully gagged and unable to raise those points again. This Member is Shri M. R. Krishna, now gagged and condemned to defend the indefensible signs of the Government and especially his Department. Shri M. R. Krishna had made a very apt remark and, I may say, had shown a very clear understanding of the country's problems when he said that India had permanent enemies and temporary friends. I am quoting his very words.

AN HON. MEMBER: He did not know that he was going to be a Minister.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: I am quoting from his last speech.

That is the attitude that we should have and only when we realise that certain enemies are permanent and

our present friends are only temporary because of our rotten foreign policy due to which even Nepal and Ceylon stand alienated from us, only then shall we with proper wisdom take steps towards our security. That a person with such clear and correct views should now become a shelf-decoration as Ministers are, is a loss to the country. But let us see if he with his customary courage for his convictions can take a stand to improve matters.

Shri M. R. Krishna had talked of improvement in the NCC. So, let me suggest a few things for that department itself. They have started a fresh approach. I shall not condemn it but I would request that they should give it a better trial than they gave last time to the compulsory training scheme. I may also say that we have again a very good Director-General and I am sure that with Shri M. R. Krishna himself in charge of the NCC, improvements will take place.

I suggest a few things for the girls' units in particular. There has been a little drawback in the schemes in many States owing to male instructors and male commanders. Parents have been apprehensive because the male commanders have shown a lack of character in many cases. At least five cases have been brought to my notice where the commanding officers have married their girl cadets. Now, Sir, love marriage is the result of prolonged courtship. Imagine the scandal when a commanding officer starts courtship with one of his own cadets. Then, again, why should bachelors have been posted to girls' units at all?

There is an international seminar on girl cadets to be held in Iran shortly. I know that the Ministry is hampering our detachment from going there.

Shri M. R. Krishna had rightly said that the cut in the jawans' rations was not correct. But after he took over as Deputy Minister...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member should try to conclude now.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is an expert. Let him have some more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that he is an expert ...

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: I do not regard myself as an expert on defence but I can....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that he is making useful contributions...

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: If I am making useful contributions, then I would request you to give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall give him two more minutes but he should conclude after that.

श्री रजित भूषण वाजपेयी (खारगोन) :
किमी ने लिख कर दे दी है।

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur): This is a very bad remark that the hon. Member has made. You should protect us. Is it fair and is it proper that the hon. Member should ask of the Member who is making a useful contribution: 'Kis se likh kar laaya hai? It is wrong on his part to make such a remark. I object to this. I object to this kind of remark against anybody.

श्री रजित भूषण वाजपेयी: यह बिलावजह
इस को हाई लाइफ कर रहे हैं।

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi): Shri Ranjit Singh may ignore the interruption and go ahead with his speech.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Shri M. R. Krishna had rightly said that the cut in the Jawans' rations was no correct. After he became the Deputy Minister, instead of restoring the cut, field service concessions in certain

cities if we could call Udhampur a city were also abolished, hitting hardest the poor civilian employees of the MES, the Ordnance and others. There have been agitations, fasts and representations regarding this unkindest cut of all. Has Shri M. R. Krishna forgotten his previous conviction so soon?

He had also spoken of the poor condition of the soldiers. I hope he remembers at least to prevent the Government from making them more miserable financially.

Now, a cut has been made in the number of water carriers and cooks in the units. The reason given was that now the units are in cantonments where water carriers are not needed because running water is provided. This is a complete perversity of thought regarding defence. Are the units meant to stay in the cantonments? What will happen when they go to the front? Will the Defence Ministry keep unrolling a water pipe-line behind them? Then, carriers will be needed. If there are no carriers there, then where will the carriers come from?

I tell you that our state of preparedness is bad and needs a study and reform. I will give examples. In 1965, units were asked to move suddenly to the front. One artillery field regiment had no ammunition. It was told to move and ammunition would follow. It took position in the Fazilka sector. The enemy was on three sides of it and the gunners were manning only rifles and light machine guns, because though facing the enemy there was no ammunition for the guns for 24 hours after coming into contact with the enemy. It is known that the entire army lacked road transport and thousands of civilian trucks were commandeered for helping it out. For both Burki and Kasur sectors, we had no field hospital for 72 hours and it were the gallant civilians, including Shri Iqbal Singh and Shri

G.S. Dhillon who commended civilian doctors and nurses to attend to our wounded. For several days, the rations for this hospital were supplied by the citizens of Patti.

In the last world war, the George Cross was awarded to the Island of Malta for bravery. Sir, I propose here on the floor of this august House that the Vishist Seva Medal be awarded to the citizens of Patti and the Mahavir Chakra to the brave citizens of Khemkaran.

Last year, speaking on our intelligence, the Defence Minister had said "we know fairly well what is happening on the other side of the border." I hope he really does, because in 1965 the Government did not. For instance, we did not know where the First Armoured Division of Pakistan was. We had received information through reconnaissance etc. that it had moved out of Khara, its cantonment. But not until it struck at 4 Mountain Div. did we know that it was there. How can the House believe that the Government knows what is happening on the other side of the border, when it does not know what is happening within its border. Ten years back, we did not know what was happening in Aksai Chin; 8 years back we did not know what was happening in Bara Hoti. 3 years ago the hon. Minister did not know what was happening in Chhamb, three months ago he did not know what was happening in Kachachativu, one month ago he did not know what was happening in Narcomdam, and we do not yet know what is happening in Lattitila-Dumabari. But the hon. Minister talks of military intelligence across the borders.

Lastly, I will come to some saving points for the budget, constructive saving points not to save the Minister's position, but to save finance. Firstly, scrap this white elephant of HF 24. Then scrap the upgradings. It will take months before the selection boards promote them. The reason given for the upgradings is that now they have increased responsibilities because of a larger army. In the

last war, we had three million men under arms and these posts were held by Brigadiers and Major Generals. There is no need to upgrade these posts. If there was upgrading required on the basis of numbers commanded why was the Director General of NCC left out?

We cannot afford a large navy at the moment. In 1964, the then Naval chief had declared that on the east and west coasts, we should have some patrol bases and use the air force for patrolling our waters. If we do this, we will save a lot on the navy.

Lastly, I request that a Commission be appointed to go into things like revision of rules of 1887. It will effect lot of savings. For instance there is a rule which says that if a contractor supplies eggs weighing one ounce, it is the rule of 1887 which applies, it will be acceptable. Those days eggs were very small. But now as you know—probably you are an egg-eater—they are much larger.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli): It will be changed in 1987.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: The Commission should go into basic things like recruiting establishments. We are maintaining a huge establishment of recruiting officers even when there is no recruitment at the moment required. Why maintain these officers as they are? Why not send them to units like NCC and the Territorial Army? When the time for recruitment comes, they can be brought back to their previous posts.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He must conclude now.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Honestly, my last point.

We are concerned about certain things in the army. There is the relaxation of height for a certain class. I do not know what one's height has to do with soldiering. The Defence Minister must have realised by now from personal experience that height is inversely proportional to intelligence. We must revise these things.

[Shri Ranjit Singh]

You are cutting my time short and I want to conclude by saying this. Not complacency but eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and you shall pay for having neglected it.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):

This debate has spread over three days and a large number of hon. Members belonging to different parts of the country and different parties have participated in the debate. There are certain common features of the debate and I should like to recapitulate them briefly the basic assessment that had emerged as a result of this debate. First of all, there is agreement among all Members—almost every Member who participated said so—that the twin danger we have been facing for sometime from our two neighbours still continues and this places a great burden on the armed forces to defend the integrity and sovereignty of our country. There have been suggestions somewhat on a wider spectrum of the assessment. Some hon. Members have said that it is likely to continue and if anything the tension is likely to increase. There have been other hon. Members who felt that some political action, if initiated by us, might result in the lessening of tension. I do not want to go over a discussion on postures in relation to foreign policy. I have on many occasions participated in the debate on external affairs and it is not my intention to go over that ground. But I readily concede that there is very close link between foreign policy and defence. This is a proposition which has been valid and which will continue to be valid. The relations with our two neighbours are bad not because of our seeking but because of the pursuit of certain policies by our neighbours and I do not want to spell them out. But the hard and cruel reality remains that the collusion between these two powers casts a heavy burden on us. A great deal has been mentioned about increasing collusion between

Pakistan and China both by the Opposition Members and the Congress Members. It is an established fact that this alliance for collusion whatever expression you may use—between China and Pakistan exists and it is not denied either by China or Pakistan. Chinese help Pakistan not only in the political field in boosting Pakistan claims—most of them unjustified—against India, for instance, they support Pakistanis attitude towards Jammu and Kashmir, and in several other matters. Beyond this political support, there has been the supply of military hardware such as artillery, tanks, aircraft and other equipment. So, this collusion or this active association between the two countries continues, but what is more surprising is the attitude of those countries who claim to take several actions to checkmate the Chinese expansionist designs: it is surprising that notwithstanding this collusion between China and Pakistan, these countries do not hesitate at all to facilitate the supplies of various types of equipment, sometimes aircraft, sometimes tanks, to Pakistan, knowing fully well the nature of relationship between China and Pakistan.

12.25 hrs.

[SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA in the Chair.]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why do you hesitate to name them?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Because there is no point in overburdening the record. I think everybody knows it. The recent decision, for instance, which has found its way in the press that Pakistan is likely to get about 100 tanks from the NATO countries, a sale or transfer which cannot be effected unless it is approved by the United States because they are the principal suppliers to the NATO countries, is a thing which is in point.

There are other cases also, of the trickling of the jet aircraft *via* Iran into Pakistan.

SHRI N. K. P. Salve (Betul): Are they only trickling through?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: It is a verb; not an adjective or an adverb. English language is subtle. (*Interruption*). This is a point which we cannot ignore, and it is in this context that we have to see as to whether the policy that we have been pursuing is right; sometimes variations of it are suggested from what, I should say, the extreme left and the extreme right, because those who claim in our House to speak for the right sit on the extreme left and those who speak for the left probably sit somewhat right of the centre, if I may say so, physically, not in thinking. When they make these suggestions in a rather light-hearted manner, without giving adequate thought to those various problems, sometimes I feel startled at the over-simplification in their minds and some sort of feeling that at a crucial moment there will be others who will defend us. I strongly repudiate and deprecate any such tendency for a country of our size, for a country which has been pursuing a certain policy in the international sphere, an independent policy, the basic policy of not getting ourselves tied to the apron-strings of any other country; for a country which is geopolitically situated as we are, there is no option but to stand on our own legs and that is the only way that we can survive. To imagine that soldiers from any other country can help you or that others will fight for your freedom or at a crucial moment there will be others who can underwrite your freedom or integrity or your safety is a dream, and the sooner we wake up from this dream, the better for us, the better for the country and the better for all of us.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): would you like to stand on your own legs by having nuclear weaponry?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: This talk that we must look to some other powers to underwrite or safety in this or that field is something which is unthinkable and we should not think in those lines. Faced as we are with this situation; what is the state of our preparedness to meet the situation? I do not want to indulge in mere dialectics, though there is a strong temptation for me to do so, when very spurious arguments are advanced, to indulge in putting across what may be described as debating points. I think I have done this long enough, notwithstanding the poor opinion which some young Majors have about my incapacity to handle the affairs of the country. I will not indulge in that sort of debating point. It is my intention to inform this House and the country about our state of preparedness to meet the situation. I would like to take this House into confidence about the progress made in the development of the three wings of our armed forces, consistent with the security aspect. We must not forget that as our neighbours we have two countries who have practically no Parliament of the type we have. It is a good thing for us because parliamentary discussion raises the morale in the country; it throws up points and we have an opportunity to explain our points.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Neither of those countries have this sort of ministers.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: They have no member of the opposition like Mr. Banerjee. I wish there are a few Banerjees there also.

SHRI PILOO MODY: We are quite prepared to send him!

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The War Minister or the Defence Minister there are never questioned. The Pakistan Defence Minister is not questioned about the acquisition of various items of armament and war machine they are building. But I do not grudge it. I only want you to show me this concession or understanding that it

[Shri Swaran Singh]

is my earnest desire consistent with security requirements to share as much information as I can with this House. It has become necessary to give this information a little more precisely because I do not want the impression to remain uncontradicted in the country that we are not making adequate preparation particularly in organising, equipping and bringing the three wings of our armed forces to a level of full preparedness to meet any eventuality.

In the army, we are in the process of modernising our armour artillery, air defence guns, small arms transport equipment and training. This process is backed by indigenous production, which has taken significant strides in the last four years. The Vijayanta programme is known to the House.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mandsaur): Is it a fact that we are having difficulties in manufacturing chains for these Vijayanta tanks? Are you entering in to collaboration for the same?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I know there was some difficulty in the initial stages in manufacture of chains, because some of his friends who were collaborating in this did not come up to our full expectations. These difficulties have been got over and there is no need to enter in to any collaboration. This is not a very difficult item.

SHRI NAMBIAR: If those chains are used, the tanks will fail at the crucial moment!

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Let the hon. members settle the score between themselves.

I was saying, the Vijayanta programme is known to the House. That is not the only addition to our armour fleet. We have also anti-aircraft guns with radar support, which is a modern feature of our defence. Our

artillery, both in range and fire-power has made very significant advance. We can now cover many more miles from a position than we could do two or three years ago. We are now soon to enter into the missile field of armour equipment. It is our intention to manufacture these missile components and we are taking steps both in the research field as well as in the manufacturing programme. We should be able to produce these things before long. Our other equipments and logistic support are being modernised. We are also taking aid from computers on the working out of solutions on many of our problems. In the field of ammunition, though we have not yet reached full volume and have yet to solve some problems relating to some critical items, our manufacturing capacity and stock position today is significantly better than in 1965 or even a year ago.

The size of our army continues at 8.25 lakhs. By improving the fire power and striking capacity of the army without increasing the numbers, the teeth to tail ratio has been increased from 57:43, which was the earlier ratio, to 62:38. I think I have given the broad features of our equipment programme and manufacturing programme.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर):
मंत्रो महोदय यह बतलायें कि जब चीन न्यू-क्लियर पावर है तब वह ऐटम बम क्यों नहीं बनाते।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह: यहाँ तो मुश्किल है। इस वक्त जो कह रहा हूँ उसके बारे में पूछिये, जब न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स की बात आयेंगी तब उस के बारे में पूछियेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may be allowed to proceed with his speech.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The information that I have given to the House about the modernisation programme,

the equipment programme and also the manufacturing programme I hope, would be re-assuring.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: A committee was appointed to draw the lessons from the June 1967 conflict between UAR and Israel. Has that committee submitted its report? If not, when is it likely to submit its report?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: These are no doubt interesting questions. But I would request him to make a note of them and ask them at the end, after I have finished my speech.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI: Mr. Chairman, what happens is that when we ask questions at the end they are not answered. When the Demands for Grants are being discussed, when we ask questions during the debate, the Minister should reply to these important and vital points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But unless the Minister is allowed to proceed with his speech how can he reply? So, let him be allowed to continue with his speech.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would request the hon. Member to make a note of those points and ask questions at the end after I have finished my speech. Then I will be only too glad to give him all the information. Because I am not shutting out information.

Now I would like to tell the House about the Air Force. This matter has been raised by many hon. Members. Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned it. Major Ranjit Singh also, even though he is not familiar with the Air Force, dabbled in it.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: The Minister should know that I spent a year and a half in the Air Force.

श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इतने अच्छे लड़ाकू को बाहर क्यों भेज दिया गया ?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : उन्हें एयर फोर्स का तजुर्बा नहीं है ।

श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी : वह तो बड़े अच्छे सोल्जर थे, उन को बाहर क्यों भेज दिया गया ?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: At least he knows something about the army, much better than what you know about the army.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: I was a pilot in the air force for a year and a quarter. Except seeing pistol toys, what does he know about the army?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: He found a party like the Jan Sangh more attractive than a career in the army.

Talking of the Air Force, this happens to be the Air Force Day, and I am very glad Shri Indrajit Gupta made a reference to it. The whole House should join in extending our greetings to the valiant members of the Air Force on this great day.

About the Air Force I would like to give some more complete information to the hon. House. In accordance with our defence plan the building up of a modern and balanced 45 squadron air force continues. In pursuance of this plan, older and obsolescent type of aircrafts such as Vampires and Toofanis are being phased out and more modern types of aircraft inducted into the service. These include additional squadrons of Gnati aircraft which, members will recall, gave an excellent account of itself in the 1975 operations, and the MIG aircraft. HF-24, which has been designed and manufactured indigenously has also entered Air Force squadron.

More Avro aircraft which are also being produced indigenously, have been added to the Air Force and are being used for communication duties. Steps have been taken to procure more Caribou aircraft to maintain the cargo fleet for airlift requirements. Helicopter units are being streng-

[Shri Swaran Singh]

thened. With the refitting of the super-constellation aircraft for maritime reconnaissance, the obsolete Liberator aircraft will be phased out. Somebody talked of Liberators; it is also being phased out.

Hon. Members will thus see that constant steps are being taken to phase out the obsolescent aircraft and to replace them by more modern ones. I would like to mention in this connection that having regard to the steady advances in the field of aviation this programme of replacement has to be a continuous process.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Replace your old ministers also.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Our Air Force fleet in the fighter bomber categories is certainly more modern to day than it was two or three years ago. We have added in numbers and in quality to the supersonic fleet and are continuously doing so. We have entered the missile field of different types and our radar coverage today is several times wider as compared to 1965.

15.14 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

In fire power we are equipped with cannon fire, gun fire, bombs and missile in their different capabilities of destruction and range a demonstration of which in some restricted fields was given only yesterday at Tilpat and I hope that those hon. Members who saw it realise the full merit of that demonstration.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) It was the best yesterday. We were very much impressed.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Members have naturally felt concerned at the build-up of the Pakistan Air Force and the steps taken by us to meet the threat arising therefrom. Members will recall that even with less sophisticated aircraft, our Air Force gave

an excellent account of itself in the operation of September 1965. With the implementation of the re-equipment plan and the addition to the fighting potential that we have made, our Air Force can now hit harder, fly faster and reach farther than before. With the high level of training and skill of our officers and airmen, I have no doubt that our Air Force will give a creditable performance in any eventuality and when we have to face any difficulty.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When will the whole thing be complete?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The HF-24 has already entered squadron service.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What about its being supersonic?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would not like him to press that point. Some work is being done. We have met our requirements in the supersonic sector. He should not put that question further in the light... (Interruption).

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: How is the project in Egypt about the HF-24 engine progressing? Is it still on?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Somehow or the other the mind of the young major always goes to the UAR.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: You have a right to repartee but do not make such remarks. Is it not a fact that we were going to have aircraft with engines made in UAR? If he puts a question as to what happens to that project under which we were going to manufacture the engine in collaboration with the UAR, what is wrong about it?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I do not want to say anything to hurt the feelings of anyone, but I wish the hon. leader of the Jana Sangh Party

should have restrained the speaker when he was saying all types of things. I do not want to retaliate because that is not my line. If you are interested in knowing the progress of that, I would like to say quite frankly that not much progress has been made. We are not depending upon that UAR engine for our aircraft programme. We have other arrangements and that was only a collaboration which had been entered into in which our airframe and their engine could be utilised by either country. That thing continues but not much progress has been made. Some progress has been made but that is not likely to produce the engine which would meet our requirement. We have made alternative arrangements. That is the point that I would like to make.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: What about the MIG project? What progress has that made?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: It was already stated by my colleague when he intervened in the debate that the MIG project....

MR. SPEAKER: If you are going to answer every interruption, they are entitled to put them; then, you cannot blame them.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would like to say that MIG programme of manufacture in our country is proceeding according to schedule. Already we are flying MIGs which have been assembled with some parts from our own country. They are being actually utilised now. So, the manufacturing programme is proceeding according to schedule. This is about our programme on the Air Force side.

A large number of hon. Members have made mention about our requirements of Navy. I do concede that in view of our long coast line and also our responsibility in relation to the defence of the group of islands, Andaman, Nicobar and Laccadives, and

more so in order to ensure a safe merchant shipping all along the Indian ocean, because this is our main line of communication to carry on our trade, through Suez when Suez opens, round the Cape of Good Hope and also, on the other side, on the eastern side, the importance of Navy in this geo-political situation and keeping in view our long coast-line and the group of islands, is very considerable. It is true, faced as we were with the immediate problems against our neighbours in the north, in the west and in the east, we had to give greater attention to armed forces and to air force and the navy did not receive a high priority in the initial stages. But after our experience in 1962 and 1965, we started giving real thought to modernisation of our navy, to increase its fleet, and we have taken several steps in that direction. Some of these were mentioned by my colleague about the manufacturing programme of various types of naval craft.

On the naval side, I would also like to give a little more precisely our present assessment of the situation. In the context of our requirements, I would like to give a brief account of the steps that have been taken in recent times to strengthen and modernise the navy. The Members will, no doubt, appreciate that naval acquisitions are not only a matter of resources but also of locating sources of supply and indigenous construction. The Government, both in regard to locating sources of supply and indigenous construction, have taken definite steps with a view to adequately equipping the navy to fulfil its task. In the Defence plan, keeping our commitments in view, the acquisition of more modern ships and equipment for the navy has been undertaken. I have had the occasion to tell this House that we are acquiring submarines and other naval craft to strengthen the navy. The submarine arm the need of which has been felt for a long time, has now become an integral part of our navy.

[Shri Swaran Singh]

My colleague and I also referred, from time to time about the indigenous construction of ships for the navy. As announced by the Minister of Defence production, the first Leander class frigate which is under construction in Mazagon Dock Ltd. is to be launched in October, 1968 and will be commissioned in the Indian Navy towards the end of 1971. Order has been placed on Mazagon Dock Ltd. for the construction of two more Leander class frigates. Apart from the frigates, some other vessels are also being constructed for the Navy in our public sector shipyards. I may make a particular mention of the inshore minesweepers, the first of which has already been launched and is expected to be commissioned shortly. The mobility of the fleet has also been increased recently by the addition of a fleet tanker, INS DEEPAK, which was commissioned in November, 1967.

The hon. Members have rightly expressed concern about the defence of our coastline and of our island territories. I would like to assure them that the special requirement of the vulnerable points along our coast and those of the island territories are always kept in view while drawing up plans for the expansion and deployment of naval forces. As I have said in the past, appropriate steps have been taken to strengthen the security of Andaman & Nicobar islands and these steps are being reviewed by the Government from time to time. I would like to add that new naval facilities are being established at Port Blair and the work in this regard is making satisfactory progress. Patrolling is done by the Navy in Andaman & Nicobar islands and the laccadive group of islands and at other places along the coast as required. Only recently, the naval patrols captured a number of Pakistani intruding vessels and this had a salutary effect and, after that, there have not been further intrusions.

We have been conscious for some time about the inadequacy of logistic support and the yard facilities available on the east coast, and it has been decided to set up a major base and dockyard at Vizagapatam. A team of experts, who have assessed the nature and extent of requirements, have submitted their report and Government are now examining it. It is proposed to develop Goa also into a naval base so that Marmagao harbour can be used jointly by the fleet as well as the merchant navy. As part of the plans to strengthen the naval aviation branch, the Naval Air Station at Dabolim in Goa is being developed according to a phased programme. Stage I of the Naval Dockyard Expansion Scheme at Bombay has been completed and a contract for the engineering works of the greater part of Stage II has also been concluded.

It will be appreciated that the naval programme is a long-term programme, and we have to initiate steps, but I am satisfied that the various actions that we have taken should create a satisfaction that we are taking adequate steps, both in developing indigenous production in creating new naval facilities in different parts of the country, and also in adding to our naval fleet. We attach very great importance to these and our endeavours in this respect will continue.

Having said this much about our armed forces, I would now, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, like to answer some of the specific questions that have been raised by the hon. members, but I will be very brief in replying to them.

About NCC, a viewpoint has been expressed as to why we have abandoned the compulsory aspect or compulsory nature of the NCC. It may be recalled that the NCC was started after the Chinese aggression of 1962. It has to be administered through the

educational institutions, through the State Education Ministries, and through the Chancellors of Universities, for the support on the side of maintaining discipline and for various other purposes, what are described as 'ordinances' by the various universities, have been issued. It should be appreciated that in this, although we provide the hard core of the arms and all personnel who train them, the main burden is carried by the States, both in the financial field and also in the discipline field and also in providing various facilities. I admit frankly that difficulties have arisen, particularly in the State of Madras. I am in touch with the Chief Minister of Madras; my Deputy Minister himself had gone there and I had asked him to contact the Chief Minister; he has had talks. This is about the Hindustani words of command. My approach in this respect is not to enter into an argument. The House will appreciate that, so far as Army is concerned, there have to be common words of command. I cannot imagine an Army in a country of our size where the words of command are not in the same language. This is not a matter which has arisen out of the recent Central Government's decision on the question of language. That is a separate issue about which a lot was said by the hon. members and my colleague, the Home Minister, explained the viewpoint of the Government. Whatever may be the differences of opinion on the language question, these, of course, should be resolved in a spirit of friendship and understanding and seeing the mutual difficulties, but I would strongly appeal and urge on not only Madras but all the other States that this question of the training of NCC should be delinked from the general question of language and of switching over to various languages. Now, the hard reality is that switching over from English to the Hindustani words of command which is nothing but soldiers' language—some English words, some Urdu words, some Hindi words

and some words from various other languages—all these words of command emerged not recently, but 10 or 11 years ago and all that has been a gradual process and that has been well received by not only the NCC but soldiers from different parts of the country. I would like to specially mention that the Madras contingent of NCC at the time of the last annual gathering of their camp here in Delhi got the first prize for the best performance. Sir, it will be a pity if the NCC, by some omission on our part, does not have its due place in the educational set-up of Madras. It is a continuation of something which had existed for over 10 years. (Interruptions). It is a continuation of some thing which had been in existence for a long time. So, it has not arisen out of the recent decision on language policy.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur): May I make one clarification because this is a very serious issue. The Madras Government did not ask for Tamil words being used in the Army. But the practical difficulty that has arisen was: in the situation that is prevailing there after the passing of the language resolution here, it is very difficult and it was deemed by the Madras Government that it would be impossible to carry on the NCC training there. It is a passing phase. That is why they have made a request to the Centre. I would like the Minister to look at this question from this angle.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am very thankful to the hon. Member for his very helpful attitude and I would leave it at that.

श्री मधु लिये (मुंगेर) : इसको यहीं पर खत्म कर दीजिए ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: For once I am thankful to the hon. Member for giving a very good suggestion. (Interruptions). There are only two

[Shri Swaran Singh.]

small points about the NCC before I pass on to the next point.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Why not you take some words from Malayalam, from every Indian language?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Another point is that the Education Ministry is evolving another scheme which is called National Social Service Scheme and also a National Sports Scheme. The intention is that these three will be at par in the sense that students can take any of the three. So the compulsion will be to take any one of the three. They could take one of these three schemes. In this respect those who are not particularly interested in NCC can take the National Social Service Scheme or take advantage of the National Sports Scheme. There will be an added advantage that those who have not got any special flair or special attraction towards NCC can take advantage of any of the other two schemes which are equally good, to make them good citizens and we could then concentrate on improving the quality and the nature of training that we impart to the NCC so that they may become real reservoir for further utilisation, either for absorption in the regular armed forces or in case of any emergency we can draw upon that reservoir to meet any situation that might arise as a result of emergency.

I fully share the sentiments that have been expressed about two matters. That is, in the matter of educational facilities for the children of serving members of the armed forces and also in the matter of providing accommodation, particularly, married accommodation for members of the Armed Forces.

In this matter, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that for educational facilities we have already established 116 Central Schools out of which 64 are located in regimental centres which are almost exclusively or, at any rate, predominantly being utilised by the children of the serving members of the Armed Forces. There are 15 Sainik Schools, 5 Military Schools, 2 Lawrence Schools and the Rashtriya Military College at Dehra Dun also is mostly for the children of the serving personnel. Many State Governments, on our persuasion, have given various types of concessions in fees and scholarships to the children of those who are serving in the Armed Forces. I know a great deal more have to be done, but I thought that the House would like to know what is the present position.

16 hrs.

With regard to the accommodation also I would like to give some figures which should be of interest to the House. I do not want to give any details. Conscious of the fact that there are deficiencies in this respect we undertook a programme of items to be added to the pool of accommodation. And I would like to give figures only for the last two or three years. The deficiency has been on 1st April, 1966, 1.86 lakhs units and the programme of building accommodation has been considerably stepped up. Thus while only 6,608 units were completed in 1966-67, 9,165 were sanctioned for construction during 1966-67 and the number of new constructions sanctioned is over 19,000 during 1967-68 and is likely to increase to 29,000 during the year 1968-69. This will also be evident from the actual provision in terms of money that has been made. Regarding actual expenditure, during 1964-65 the amount spent was only Rs. 4.85 crores for the three Services. It rose to Rs. 6.19

crores during 1965-66 and 10.37 crores during 1966-67 and is likely to be Rs. 17 crores during the year 1967-68. And, during 1968-69 the Budget Estimates provide for 24.11 crores in respect of the three services. It will be appreciated that we have started tackling this problem in right earnest. There is this rising crescendo both in the number of units that are being completed as also in the amount of budget provision that is made with regard to this accommodation.

SHRIMATI SUCHETA KRIPALANI (Gonda): Sometime back a point was raised about not having regiments on caste, but on national basis. What is the reaction of the Hon. Minister on that point?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Our policy in this respect has been enunciated on more than one occasion. Some names do continue for historical reasons. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Don't take away Rajput regiment. It must continue. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: There is this difference of opinion on this matter. When there is such a difference of opinion it is better to stick to the status quo. So far as the new regiments are concerned, we are not naming any of the new regiments after any caste. But it might interest the House to know that representations have been made to me to raise new Yadav regiments, new Gujarat regiments and several other new regiments.

श्री शशि भवण बाजपेयी : हरिजनों को कब रेजिमेंट्स में लिया जायगा ? लड़ाकू यूनिट्स में उन को नौकरी कब मिलेगी ? जाट राजपूत वगैरह जात-बिरादरी के नाम पर रेजिमेंट्स के नाम रखना निहायत गलत है। इसको खत्म कर दिया जाये। राष्ट्रीय आधार पर हमारी सेना का गठन होना चाहिए।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would like to say that I had clarified the position as and when this point was raised that there is no bar to a member belonging to any caste—whether he is a Harijan or a tribal, a Brahmin or Kashatriya or a jet, caste is no bar in respect of entry of any of these persons to any of our fighting units. So, it is wrong to suggest that there is any bar. A Harijan or any member of any caste can enter the fighting regiments. So, I wish to remove this wrong idea in the minds of some hon. Members. Some names do continue for historical reasons; some are attached to certain localities and others are connected with certain group of people like the Gorkhas, for instance. Our general approach is that we are not naming any of the new units after any caste names etc. But there is a certain attachment to names as such. Perhaps, there are other important things to be done than devoting our attention merely to changing the nomenclature. There are other basic things for building an *esprit de corps* amongst the members of the armed forces. It is a great integrating force. I want to pay my tribute to the armed forces as they are today one of the most significant and best integrating forces where persons from different walks of life from different parts of the country following different religions and belonging to different castes are welded into one, and as such they are the real bulwark which is a source of defence and strength for our country.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Let Sardar Swaran Singh become Choudary Charan Singh.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Choudary Charan Singh is a great friend of mine . . .

SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH-KOTAH (Jhalawar): Let Major Ranjit Singh become Sardar Ranjit Singh.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Now, I have sensed the general atmosphere in the House. The House does not expect me to notice some of these side remarks, particularly from Shri Ranjit Singh.

Regarding emergency commission officers, as many hon. Members have expressed their concern, I also share their concern. I would like to recall that this matter was discussed at great length on the floor of this House. At that time, I had given certain figures according to which a very large proportion of the first batch of the emergency commission officers who had been released had been given either permanent commission or other alternative employments in the civil side, in the NCC or in the border security force and in several other walks and vocations of life. There is one field in which a great deal can be done and that is in regard to their employment in the private sector.

Although the response in the form of nice replies and nice letters from various captains of industry and commerce have been received, I have not seen any concrete action having been taken. That is a matter which we are pursuing further, and it will be our endeavour to find alternative employment for them in other Central Government departments, in the departments in the State Governments as also at the Centre and also in the private sector; that effort will continue. We have established a special cell which progresses these cases. There are difficult cases, and if there are individual hard cases, I myself am very moved when I see a young man who has been released not having found another alternative employment. But this is a decision which we have had to take, in order, as I explained earlier, to keep the Army young and to replenish the various age groups. It is in this context that we have to view it, namely from the Army point of view.....

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Has it been brought to his notice that the railways who are one of the biggest employers in the country do not give any preference to the emergency commissioned officers?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am glad that he has pointed this out. If they do not take them, then I shall take this matter up with them. I hope they will certainly give preference to these young men.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Would the hon. Minister consider one thing? The educational qualification laid down for most of the posts is a degree. Could this be waived for these emergency commission officers because their greatest degree lies in their knowledge etc.?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I think there is recruitment through the Public Service Commission and there it will not be proper to give any relaxation in the matter of educational qualifications.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: What about relaxation in regard to age?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: We have a certain relaxation. We have persuaded the Central Government and also the State Governments to give them credit for their service in the Army. If they could compete at the time when they entered, then they could compete now, and that relaxation has been made.....

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: The instructions are already there, but the complaint is that they are not being implemented by the State Governments and the various departments of the Central Government.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Whatever he says is 100 per cent correct. They have given so much for the country, but they are not being employed. Kindly see that something practical is done.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: This is a justifiable reaction.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: Something practical must be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is saying that his remarks are justified.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The best I could do was to examine their cases very liberally for absorption into the permanent commissions. I am glad that as high as 35 to 40 per cent is the number who actually have succeeded in getting permanent commissions. Several others have got alternative employment in the NCC—a few hundred have gone there. Others have gone to the Border Security Force and some are absorbed in State services. This is a continuous process, a laborious process we have embarked upon, and we will continue to take whatever steps we can for them. My heart is with them. It will be my endeavour to do my best for them (*Interruption*). My hand is also with them. I thought absorbing about 80 per cent of them was doing something really substantial.

Mention was made about delay in finalising pension cases, both of the civilian employees of the Ministry and also members of the armed forces. I made an assessment of the situation. I am glad to report that so far as the members of the armed forces are concerned, the position is quite satisfactory, and the number of cases which have not been quickly settled is very small.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: How many?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The position, however, on the civilian side requires tightening up. I would like, for instance, to say that regarding the statistical survey of the pension cases received during the period of 7 years in respect of the defence servicemen from 1959-60 has revealed that out of a total of 2.45 lakh cases, only about 1800, i.e. less than one per cent of the total were outstanding on 1st Nov. 1967. Thus the position regarding our servicemen is fairly satisfactory.

Regarding defence civilians, the audit report mentions 1798 cases, that is, about 12.3 per cent of the total outstanding. They were vigorously persuaded as a result of which only 300 claims are outstanding. Also regarding the new 5404 pension cases that have arisen during 1966-67, more than 80 per cent have already been disposed of by the end of last year for which figures are available. This position is not so unsatisfactory. But this is a matter about which I have issued very strict instructions that in finalising pension cases, no delay should be brooked. Sometimes their service has got to be verified. But I have initiated action to ensure that this should be a continuous process so that by the time that government employees, whether in the armed forces or on the civilian side, retire, all the papers should be ready, so that the pension is expeditiously sanctioned.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: How many pensioners have died before sanction of pension?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Mention was made of the unsatisfactory performance of military farms. I have examined that position. I am also conscious of the fact that this matter has come to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee. I have checked up the latest position. For the last two years, the position has significantly improved. There was some profit year before last year and there was also some profit last year. It should be remembered that this is a facility that is organised and it is not a profit-making organisation. The price of milk which obviously has got a higher fat content, which is wholesome, does not compare very unfavourably with that of comparable quality available in the market. So both from the point of view of quality and also the profit and loss account, the situation has greatly improved over the last two or three years. I have attempted to cover questions about general preparedness and some other specific points that had been raised. I have no

[Shri Swaran Singh]

doubt in my mind that the burden that we carry is heavy. Voices have been raised that our percentage in numbers in the Armed Forces as compared to our total population is small. On the other hand, there have been suggestions that we should reduce our defence expenditure. This is a burden which we have to carry when we see the political postures that we are facing and the threat which is constant from our neighbours and which is not of our seeking. Any let up on our part will not be in the interest of the safety and security of our country. Although it is a fairly heavy burden, judged in terms of percentage of gross national product, it is much less as compared to many other countries.

श्री मधु लिमये : हम दुनिया में सबसे गरीब हैं, इसका भी ख्याल करिए ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Therefore, I am comparing it with the percentage of gross national product. Even from that point of view, it is very much on the low side. Mr. Limaye reminded me about the cut in meat rations. I have noted the concern voiced by the hon. Members. It cannot be called economy if it is to be achieved by cutting rations but I shall place the whole thing in proper perspective. In certain areas which were regarded as difficult areas from the climatic point of view, the troops and other civilian employees were issued additional rations. As a result of the recommendations of a departmental committee set up to look into their allowances they recommended that the additional rations given to troops located in Jammu, Srinagar, Udhampur and Darjeeling need not be continued—they were withdrawn. It should be remembered that the normal rations that were issued are issued and it was only the additional rations that were withdrawn. We had taken a certain step on the recommendation of a departmental committee which had recom-

mended increases in their allowances and we have already announced increases which would cost about Rs. 16 or Rs. 17 crores and I do not want to go into those details because a statement had already been made. The committee which approached that problem with sympathy and understanding came to this conclusion. It was not done light-heartedly . . . (Interruptions.) The soldier has to be well fed. If I find that due to this cut in the additional ration, there is some need to augment the rations, I shall not hesitate to give the additional ration. This is the background which I wanted to explain.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: The criterion that the Committee laid down does not apply to Udhampur but only to Srinagar and Jammu.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I know Udhampur has a case. Therefore, I am not completely shutting that out. I am still taking that matter up with my colleague the Deputy Prime Minister, who I may say has shown the greatest understanding of defence matters and on any worth-while scheme in defence that is taken to him, I have met with a responsive chord and I am sure that in this matter also, we will review the position so far as that is concerned.

SHRI GIRIRAJ SARAN SINGH (Mathura): Will you tell me why areas in Kutch and on the western border of Rajasthan, where the desert is, do not come into the category of hot dry areas as far as rationing is concerned?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: This matter has not been raised. The hon. Member made a very fine speech and if he had mentioned it then, I could have collected the information. I will collect the information.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose —

MR. SPEAKER: There should be an end to this. (Interruption) We are cutting into the time of the other Demands.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: There was the question of disposals. There are two points about the disposals that have been mentioned. One is the approach of the Public Accounts Committee. There, the gravamen of the lapse is that fairly large quantities are lying to be disposed of and thus they are consuming space and rapid steps should be taken to ensure that they are disposed of and the space utilised for something else. This is the recommendation of the PAC. But Shri Madhu Limaye raised the other point that in implementing the disposal policy, we should try to ensure that whatever can be utilised elsewhere should be so utilised because we are a poor country and we should not throw away things merely for the sensation or thrill of having new things. I accept the validity of that point, but I would like to ensure him that before any article is declared for disposal, every department and the various wings of the Government of India and the armed forces have first to see whether they cannot be utilised for some other purpose. Even after it goes to the Director General of Supplies and Disposals, he circularises it to the various departments and if they can be picked up by any other department for utilisation, they utilise it for that purpose.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: When the disposal is much less, it can be dealt with in a proper way.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am coming to that. After that report, I think over 50 per cent of what has been

mentioned in the PAC report has been declared for disposal and that is awaiting disposal by the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: We have had enough questions. It will take one more hour if we proceed like this. I am now putting the cut motions to the vote. (*Interruptions*). I know. He has written to me. I will take it up afterwards. I am now putting the cut motions to the vote. Shri Madhu Limaye has raised another point, about the demands being put to the vote. Before they are put, he can raise it.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: You told me to write down our questions.

MR. SPEAKER: You have had enough. I am now putting the cut motions to the vote.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My cut motions—50 and 94—may be put separately.

AN HON. MEMBER: They may be read.

MR. SPEAKER: They have been circulated. I shall now put out motion Nos. 50 and 94 to the vote of the House.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Please read the cut motions, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: These have been circulated and you are expected to carry the papers. I cannot become an agent to read amendments and cut motions. It will be a bad precedent and I will have to do it every time.

The Lok Sabha divided.

*The text of Cut motions Nos. 50 and 94 is reproduced below.

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Failure to restore permanent negotiating machinery for the civilian employees in Defence. (50)].

"That the demand under the head Ministry of Defence be reduced to Re. 1".

[Failure to appoint a Wage Board for the civilian employees in Defence. (44)].

Division No. 12]

Ayes

[16.33 hrs.

Adichan, Shri P. C.
Banerjee, Shri S. M.
Behera, Shri Baidhar
Bhagaban Das, Shri
Bharat Singh, Shri
Brij Bhushan Lal, Shri
Chandra Shekhar Singh,
Shri
Fernandes, Shri George
Goel, Shri Shri Chand
Gopalan, Shri P.
Guha, Shri Samar
Janardhanan, Shri C.
Jharkhandey Rai, Shri
Joshi, Shri Jangannath
Rao

Kachwai, Shri Hukam
Chand
Kandappan, Shri S.
Limaye, Shri Madhu
Mangalathumadom, Shri
Menon, Shri Vishwana-
tha
Naik, Shri R. V.
Nair, Shri Vasudevan
Nambiar, Shri
Nayanar, Shri E. K.
Nihal Singh, Shri
Pandey, Shri Sarjoo
Patil, Shri N. R.
Puri, Dr. Surya Prakash
Ram Charan Shri
Ramabadran, Shri T. D.

Ramani, Shri K.
Ranjit Singh, Shri
Reddy, Shri Eswara
Samanta, Shri S. C.
Sambhali, Shri Ishaq
Satya Narain Singh,
Shri
Shah, Shri T. P.
Sharma, Shri N. S.
Shastri, Shri Raghavir
Singh
Sondhi, Shri M. L.
Suraj Bhan, Shri
Thakur, Shri Gunanand
Viswambharan, Shri P.
Viswanatham, Shri Ten-
neti

Noes

Azad, Shri Bhagwat Jha
Bajpai, Shri Shashibhu-
shan
Bajpai, Shri Vidya Dhar
Barua, Shri Bedabrata
Besra, Shri S. C.
Bhandare, Shri R. D.
Bhanu Prakash Singh,
Shri
Bhattacharyya, Shri
C. K.
Chatterji, Shri Krishna
Kumar
Choudhury, Shri J. K.
Dalbir Singh, Shri
Das, Shri N. T.
Dasappa, Shri Tulsidas
Dass, Shri C.
Deoghare, Shri N. R.
Deshmukh, Shri B. D.
Dinesh Singh, Shri
Dixit, Shri G. C.
Gajraj Singh Rao, Shri
Gandhi, Shrimati Indira
Gavit, Shri Tukaram
Ghosh, Shri Bimalkanti
Ghosh, Shri P. K.
Girja Kumari, Shrimati
Gupta, Shri Lakhan Lal

Hem Raj, Shri
Jadhav, Shri Tulshidas
Jaggiwan Ram, Shri
Kahandole, Shri Z. M.
Kamala Kumari, Shri-
mati
Kasture, Shri A. S.
Kavade, Shri B. R.
Khadihar, Shri
Kripalani, Shrimati
Sucheta
Krishna, Shri M. R.
Kushok Bakula, Shri
Lakshmikanthamma,
Shrimati
Lalit Sen, Shri
Laskar, Shri N. R.
Laxmi Bai, Shrimati
Maharaj Singh, Shri
Maiti, Shri S. N.
Malimariyappa, Shri
Mandal, Dr. P.
Mandal, Shri Yamuna
Prasad
Mehta, Shri Asoka
Melkote, Dr.
Minimata, Shrimati
Agam Dass Guru

Mirza, Shri Bakar Ali
Mishra, Shri Bibhuti
Mishra, Shri G. S.
Mohinder Kaur, Shri-
mati
Partap Singh, Shri
Parthasarathy, Shri
Patil, Shri Deorao
Qureshi, Shri Mohd.
Shaffi
Radhabai, Shrimati B.
Raghu Ramaiah, Shri
Raj Deo Singh, Shri
Rajasekharan, Shri
Raju, Shri D. B.
Raju, Dr. D. S.
Ram Dhan, Shri
Ram Dhani Das, Shri
Ram Subhag Singh, Dr.
Ram Swarup, Shri
Ramshekhar Prasad
Singh, Shri
Randhir Singh, Shri
Reddy, Shri M. N.
Saha, Dr. S. K.
Salve, Shri N. K. P.
Sambasivam, Shri
Sarma, Shri A. T.

Sen, Shri Dwaipayan	Siddheshwar	Prasad,	Supakar, Shri Sradhakar
Sen, Shri P. G.	Shri		Swaran Singh, Shri
Shambhu Nath, Shri	Singh, Shri D. N.		'Tula Ram, Shri
Sheo Narain, Shri	Sinha, Shri Mudrika		Verma, Shri Prem
Sher Singh, Shri	Sinha, Shrimati		Chand
Shinkre, Shri	Tarkeshwari		Virbhadra Singh, Shri
Shukla, Shri Vidya	Snatak, Shri Nar Deo		Yadav, Shri Chandra
Charan	Sudarsanam, Shri M.		jeet

MR. SPEAKER: The result* of the division is Ayes 43, Noes 92.

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I will now put all the other cut motions to the House.

All the other cut motions were then put and negatived

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी की 20वीं रपट की ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ...

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister might accept it.

श्री मधु लिमये : कमेटी की रपट में सरकार के द्वारा उनको जो खत लिखा गया था उसमें से एक वाक्य रखना हूँ :

"The decision to combine the Demands under one without prior approval of the Estimates Committee was taken under a misunderstanding."

तो एस्टीमेट्स कमेटी के सूझावों के बारे में इनको गलतफहमी हुई। पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी और इनके बीच में बातचीत चली और इनकी रपट से ऐसा मालूम होता है कि कोई रास्ता निकला है। अन्त में पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी ने कहा है :

"In the light of the difficulties mentioned in the letter and the

assurance contained in the communication that the provision of funds for each of the services would in the current year be treated as separate and distinct and that no reappropriation of funds as between the services would be carried out and that from the following year the previous form of estimates would be restored, the Committee consider that with this restoration of the status quo the matter may now be regarded as satisfactorily settled."

आग उन्होंने कहा है :—

"Although in the printed budget papers that will be circulated on the 29th February there will be only one composite revenue demand for all the three services, in the Committee's view it is desirable that when the Demands are put to the vote of the Lok Sabha the demands in respect of each of the three services, that is, Army, Air Force and Navy should be put to the vote of the House separately, as in previous years."

यह मेरी मांग है। अगर वह मानते हैं कि रिप्रोप्रीएशन नहीं किया जायेगा तो ठीक है।

MR. SPEAKER: What has the Minister to say in the matter?

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): In this regard, while supporting the point of order raised by my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye, I would like to draw

*The following Members also wanted to note:—

AYES:—Sarvashri Bal Raj Madhok, Kanwarlal Gupta, S. Xavier, J. Sundar Lal and G. Viswanathan.

NOES:—Sarvashri Ganpat Sahai and Chengalraya Naidu.

[Shri P. K. Deo]

your attention to the 45th Report of the Estimates Committee on the same subject. In the concluding paragraph, the committee has stated:

"In view of the position now explained by the Ministry of Finance and the assurance given by them that in the operation of the Demands the same procedure as was followed when the Demands were separate will be followed before voting reappropriation among the Navy, Army and Air Force estimates, the Committee do not propose to pursue the matter further. They would, however, suggest that suitable indication may be given to that effect while presenting the budget for 1968-69."

In this regard I would like to submit that at this stage you cannot separate these three Demands. It could be done only if there had been previous intimation to this effect and the three separate Demands had been circulated to us. Then we could have given our opinion whether these three Demands could be passed by this House or not. Now if these demands are put to vote, it will be against the canons of all parliamentary conventions and practices followed by this House. So, I would submit that these Demands cannot be passed today.

श्री मधु लिमये : पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी के चेयरमैन ने स्वयं कहा है।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: This matter was discussed between the Ministry and the Public Accounts Committee, and I accept the suggestion that had been made by the Public Accounts Committee. So far as the current year is concerned, the difficulty was appreciated by the PAC and they also came to this conclusion that the form in which this Demand is presented in the budget estimates, that form will remain but from the net year we will revert to the practice as it existed before. We have accepted it. Even for the current year, at the time when the Vote on Account was taken, I

understand that the Vote on Account was passed somewhat in the following form: "That a sum not exceeding.... be granted to the President... Defence Services of which Rs.....for army including Defence Production, Rs..... for the Navy and Rs.....for the Air Force". So, if we follow the same form in which we passed the Vote on Account, that will meet the requirements of the situation. With that and the further assurance that we have already given, which has been accepted by the PAC and also by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, that we will not reappropriate from one to the other—this is essential control by Parliament—there is full compliance with the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee.

SHRI P. K. DEO: The PAC Report was submitted on 22nd February and it is more than a month. They have slept over the matter. They could have easily separated them.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the order paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 4, Demand No. 5 Army, Navy and Air Force separately and Demands Nos. 6 and 104 relating to the Ministry of Defence."

SHRI P. K. DEO: What is your ruling?

श्री मधु लिमये : आपने निर्णय नहीं दिया।

MR. SPEAKER: I have put it separately. That is the *nirnyaya* that I can give.

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants, which were adopted by the Lok Sabha, are reproduced below—Ed.]

16.36 hrs.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

DEMAND No. 4—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of Ministry of Defence."

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 3 and 103 relating to the Ministry of Commerce for which 5 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House who are desirous of moving their cut motions may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move.

DEMAND No. 5—DEFENCE SERVICES—EFFECTIVE

[Army including Defence Production, Navy and Air Force]

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,62,53,33,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of Defence Services, Effective of which Rs. 5,90,57,83,000 shall be for Army including Defence Production, Rs. 31,84,67,000 for Navy and Rs. 1,40,10,83,000 for Air Force."

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving the Demands of the Ministry of Commerce, may I take a few minutes of the House to make some broad observations regarding the working of the Ministry?

16.37 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

श्री मधु लिमये : आप भाषण करने जा रहे हैं या बयान देने जा रहे हैं ?

DEMAND No. 6—DEFENCE SERVICES—NON-EFFECTIVE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,54,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of 'Defence Services—Non-effective."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Speaker has permitted him to make a short statement.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Is that on the export-import policy?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He would not take more than 5 minutes or so.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL (Chandigarh): Why should there be departure from the usual practice?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Speaker has permitted him.

DEMAND No. 104—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,79,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1969, in respect of Defence Capital Outlay."

SHRI NAMBIAR: Is it the carrot-and-stick policy that he is going to announce?

SHRI M. AMERSEY (Banaskantha): On what subject is he going to make a statement?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali): He should not be allowed.