

MR. SPEAKER : I technically you want to object you have that right. There is no denying that fact. I thought it was an agreed amendment.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Sir, very often resolutions loosely worded are coming and without reference to the rules of procedure these are admitted, and they are being discussed. That way we are creating a lot of precedents. Only yesterday I pointed out one thing. Today this is another thing. Day by day this is going on and what is going to happen is that there will be no rules of procedure and then nothing could be done. I would, therefore, request them to accept this amendment.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Sir, I have no objection in accepting the amendment moved by Shri Limaye.

MR. SPEAKER : On your recommendation, Shri Nambiar, they have accepted Shri Madhu Limaye's amendment. I shall put it to the vote of the House. The question is:

That in the resolution,—

for "recommends to the Government the evolving of a special machinery and the taking of effective measures by suitable legislation to arrest this growing phenomenon which is assuming alarming proportions so that the country can function on sound and healthy lines of parliamentary democracy".

substitute—

"make recommendations in this regard". (3)

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put the resolution as amended to the vote of the House. The question is:

"This House is of opinion that a high level Committee consisting of representatives of political Parties and constitutional experts be set up immediately by Government to consider the problem of legislators changing their allegiance from one party to another and their frequent crossing of the floor in all its aspects and make recommendations in this regard."

The motion was adopted.

17·48 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF SAHIBINADI SCHEME

SHRI GAJRAJ SINGH RAO (Mehendragarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that, with a view to provide irrigation and drinking water facilities to backward areas of Haryana (Rewari and Jhajjar Tehsils) and Alwar District of Rajasthan and in order to avoid constant flooding of Najafgarh area of Delhi State and damage to Railway line (meter gauge), implementation of Sahibinadi scheme (raising Bunds etc.) is of urgent necessity and importance and urges upon the Government its speedy completion and effective utilisation."

MR. SPEAKER : He may continue his speech next time. We may take up the half-an-hour discussion.

17·49 hrs.

*RELEASE OF EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire nation has been exercised and upset by the stand taken by the Government to release thousands of Emergency Commissioned Officers from the armed forces. I am glad that the House will have an opportunity to discuss this very important matter that is affecting the minds of not only the officers in our armed forces who have fought bravely for the country but also Members of Parliament here who feel very strongly on this matter. I must say that the armed forces, our brave boys who have enrolled in the army, navy and air force, to defend the vast frontiers of this country have from time to time received a raw deal at the hands of the Government.

I shall take you back 17 to 20 years when, at the time of the integration of the Indian States, the former State Forces were merged into the Indian Army. At that time, the officers and men of that service, who were as good as anybody else in the Indian Army, had 25 per cent of their services taken away, and that affected their seniority considerably.

Now, 20 years later, we find that the Defence Ministry is taking a strong stand to demobilise these brave men, who commissioned and offered their services at a time when India needed their services most.

Let us not forget that the backbone of the strength in our country is the armed forces. The armed forces acquitted themselves well in three battles, in three wars, since independence—first, the troubles in Kashmir, later against China and now against Pakistan. To treat these boys in such a casual way, to throw them virtually back on the streets is, in my opinion, extremely unfair, both to them and also to the parents of these people. Let us not forget that these thousands of boys who are now thrown on the roadside by our benign government are virtually our own sons.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Not virtually; they are.

DR. KARNI SINGH : Yes, they are our sons. I am glad the Minister feels that way. So, I hope he would be more considerate in getting more jobs for them.

Most of these boys are in their early twenties. These boys left their colleges half way to respond to the call of the leaders of our country, who wanted them to volunteer in their thousands, to go and defend our country. I was told, and I think the hon. Minister might enlighten us, that the number of casualties in the Emergency Commissioned Officers in the war against Pakistan this time was greater than that of the regular commissioned officers, proving thus that these youngmen, coming out of our colleges and schools were first class men, motivated by one desire to defend their country but, unfortunately, let down at a stage when they needed the help of the army and the government most. I feel that it is unfair for us, not only the government but all of us in Parliament, to forget the services of these battle-tested men, who stood up to the toughest odds during these wars and defended our country and took us to greater glory.

The Government's version, I was told, has been that everything possible is being done and, of course, that is the normal

line. But I am sure that many of us, on both sides of this House, feel that not enough is being done to re-employ and rehabilitate these brave men, who are being thrown on to the streets as from now.

I think the hon. Defence Minister gave some figures in the other House in his reply to Question No. 13 on 13-11-67. But some of these figures that the hon. Minister gave have been countered by Shri I. S. Deol, Chairman of the Action Committee on the Release of Emergency Commissioned Officers of India. The Chairman of the Action Committee, Shri I. S. Deol, commenting on the release of Emergency Commissioned Officers, according to reports—I quote—

“today expressed surprise over the statement of Defence Minister Swaran Singh that alternative jobs had been provided to 900 ECOs and that the Government was doing its best to rehabilitate them.

He said only a few hundred ECOs had gone back to their parent departments. Most of them had been taken back as clerks and stenographers.

Out of 3,000 demobbed ECOs more than 2,000 were still unemployed.”

Now, we cannot altogether disregard what is said by a man as responsible as the Chairman of the Action Committee on the Release of Emergency Commissioned Officers.

A great deal is coming in the newspapers everyday, in the Letters to the Editor columns, and there was a brilliant editorial in the *Indian Express* today on demobilised officers. I feel that all this is a pointer to the government, showing how concerned the nation feels about the raw deal that these brave men are getting.

I believe that it is possible that these Emergency Commissioned Officers can be absorbed, either in the Short Service Commissions or in the regular Commissions and permanent commissions.

These are avenues which, I believe, can be made open to these brave men. To insist entirely that they should go before selection boards again may not be absolutely fair because a man who may have the ability to fight bravely may not always

[Dr. Karni Singh]

be able to prove his mettle in front of officers asking him odd questions. I feel, the man's record in war should be a greater guiding factor than merely a group of officers asking a man questions at these selections.

The emergency is over, technically perhaps not but as far as the wars with Pakistan and China are concerned it is over, and immediately these brave men now find themselves without any jobs. I have been told that the Union Government is trying its best to absorb these men in State-run enterprises and is also trying to help them get employment in the private sector. I feel that the private sector may not always be in a position to appreciate the gallantry of these brave men because the type of men that they require is perhaps a little different than battle-tested veterans. I feel and I am quite sure that the entire House here feels that an action like this to throw these men out of jobs is immoral and the Government, therefore, has to take this matter up bearing in mind the morality factor and that these men responded and fought for you at a time when the country needed these brave men's lives. Thousands have died and yet in a period of two or three years we have entirely forgotten the services of these men and we can nonchalantly throw them on the streets. I think, that is a disgrace; it is a stigma on our Government and I feel that although you may be protected by your own rules which said that a permanent commission was not a part of the deal to these emergency commissioned officers, nevertheless, I repeat once more, the moral aspect cannot be ignored.

If, God forbid, there is another war, we would like thousands and thousands, millions of our countrymen to respond in exactly the same enthusiasm as they did during the wars before. But if the Government were to give our boys, whether they are the jawans or the officer cadre, a raw deal like this, I have some misgivings in my mind that the same enthusiasm and fervour that would be required of the brave men and our countrymen may not be forthcoming. Therefore, I hope that the Government will see that these men are absorbed in decent jobs, in jobs where they can honourably serve and, if necessary, be ready to serve the country once again.

I was told by a very senior retired Army officer, who was looking back to the previous times, that at one stage the British were limiting—this is during pre-independence period—grants to wartime emergency commissioned officers to about a thousand only, but when it was pointed out to the then Commander-in-Chief and the then Adjutant General, the number was increased to about 4,000 and later many more, may be in thousands, were given short service commission, in some cases up to 10 years to entitle them to reach a pensionable service. I hope that Government will also see that these emergency commissioned officers are absorbed in the Army in such a way that they are at least able to earn some sort of a pension and have a decent standard of living maintainable for the rest of their lives.

The Directorate of Resettlement should develop closer contacts with the employers in the private sector. Secondly, the grant of land on border areas and lands for developing agricultural farms on modern lines should also be entrusted to some extent to these brave young men. The State Governments should be urged to take greater interest and quicker action in the resettlement of the emergency commissioned officers.

I am sure, there must be other Members who wish to say something on this subject. I would only conclude my remarks by saying this much: Let us not neglect these boys who we say are like our own sons, who have fought for the country, who gave their lives and let us not let them down at a stage like this.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : पिछले सत्र में पार्लियामेंट में एक सवाल के जवाब में मंत्री महोदय ने जो कहा था और अभी जो वह कह रहे हैं उस से ऐसा मालूम होता है कि श्री स्वर्ण सिंह को उन हजारों लोगों की कोई परवाह नहीं है जो कि पिछले भारत-पाक युद्ध के दौरान पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ लड़े थे। उस वक्त वह लोग जिस उत्साह और देशभक्ति की भावना से प्रेरित होकर भारत की आजादी की रक्षा करने हेतु संग्राम में कूद पड़े थे आज मुझे खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि उन के प्रति हम एक बहुत बेरहमी और बिना सहानुभूति

दिसाये उन के बारे में हम सोच रहे हैं। इस बारे में सरकार का जो रुख है वह इतना अमानवीय है कि हम को कभी-कभी ऐसा लगता है कि क्या बाकई पाकिस्तान और चीन हमारे दुश्मन हैं? ये जो एमरजेंसी कमिश्नर अफसर हैं इनकी हमारी और भ्रातृ हैं। तीन चार अफसर जोकि डिमोबिलाइज हो गए हैं वे मुझे से मिलने आए थे। उन में से एक इंस्पेक्टर आफ स्कूलज था और वह नौकरी छोड़ कर एमरजेंसी कमिशन में भरती हुआ था। उन्होंने मुझे बताया कि अब वे दिल्ली की और लखनऊ की सड़कों पर खाक छानते फिर रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि डायरेक्टोरेट कहता है कि फलां फलां इंडस्ट्री को लिखा है कि नौकरी उनके यहां है या नहीं है। अगर होगी तो मिल जाएगी और अगर नहीं है तो तुम जहशुम में जाओ। जब आप इस तरह का बरताव उनके साथ कर रहे हैं, इस तरह का रवैया उनके प्रति बरतना चाहते हैं तो आगे चल कर जब दुश्मन की तरफ से हमारे देश पर हमला होगा तो मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि ये लोग इस कद्र निराश हो गए हैं, इस कद्र फस्ट्रेटिड फील कर रहे हैं कि वे तब आगे नहीं आएंगे। इस वास्ते मैं आपका ध्यान जो बुनियादी गलती है उसकी तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं।

आपको याद होगा कि नेता जी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस ने आजाद हिन्द फौज का गठन किया था। आजाद हिन्द फौज ब्रिटिश सरकार की सेना के खिलाफ लड़ी है और ब्रिटिश सरकार की फौज में से बगावत करके जो सैनिक आजाद हिन्द फौज में शामिल हो गए थे, भारत के स्वतंत्र होने के बाद जब वे इधर आए और फौज में उनको भरती करने का सवाल आया तो आपको मालूम ही है कि क्या रवैया उनके प्रति बरता गया। यह कहा गया कि ये लोग बागी थे, विद्रोही थे, इन लोगों को वापिस फौज में नहीं लेंगे। भारत की फौज में जो सैद्धुस्के से पढ़ कर आए हैं, जो कमांडर हैं, जो कर्नल हैं उनकी बात चलती है। इसी तरह से आजाद हिन्दुस्तान के ये नवयुवक जोकि

विलासिता की जिन्दगी को त्याग कर एमरजेंसी कमिशन में भरती हुए थे और पसीना लमा कर पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ जिन्होंने लड़ाई की थी वे दिल्ली और लखनऊ की सड़कों पर जब बेकार घूमते दिखाई देते हैं तो दिल को चोट लगती है। उनकी कोई परवाह नहीं करता है। डाइरेक्टोरेट वाले कहते हैं कि हमने लिखा है कोई नौकरी नहीं है, सब ने इन्कार कर दिया है। चूंकि श्री कर्णी सिंह जी ने यह सवाल उठाया है इस को आप प्रेस्टीज का सवाल न बनायें। आप जो हज़ारों की तादाद में लोग बेकार फिर रहे हैं उनके लिए कुछ करें। उनकी निगाहें हमारी तरफ लगी हुई हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप कुछ अवधि बांध दें, दो महीने या तीन महीने की और उस अवधि के अन्दर-अन्दर आप इनके लिए नौकरी का प्रबन्ध कर दें, ताकि आगे चल कर नवयुवकों में इस तरह की निराशा की भावना पैदा न हो। उनके रिहैबिलिटेशन का आप प्रबन्ध करें।

18 hrs.

श्री आर्ज फरनेडीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
ये जो एमरजेंसी कमिश्नर अफसर हैं इन में से काफी लोगों से मेरी मुलाकात हुई है। जो बात अभी श्री कर्णी सिंह जी ने और श्री रवी राय ने कही है कि एक किस्म की उनमें निराशा फैली हुई है और नौकरी की खोज में आज ये लोग गली-गली घूम रहे हैं उसको मैं आगे ले जा कर कहना चाहता हूं कि बम्बई में मेरे पास कुछ ऐसे अफसर आए जो पलटन में कप्तान थे और मुझ से कहने लगे कि किसी कारखाने-दार को चिट्ठी लिख कर आप दे दें तो हम को नौकरी मिल जाए। अध्यक्ष महोदय, वैसे तो भारत सरकार ने और बहुत से बेशर्मी के काम किये हैं लेकिन इन अफसरों से जो बरताव उसका है इससे ज्यादा गंदा और इससे ज्यादा बेशर्मी का काम इस सरकार का और कोई नहीं हो सकता है।

इसी सवन में मैंने एक प्रश्न पूछा था और उसके जबाब में बह्माण साहब ने बताया था कि पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान की जंग में

[श्री जाजं फरनेम्हीज]

कमिश्नड अफसरों से भी ज्यादा तादाद में एमरजेंसी कमिश्नड अफसर मरे हैं और जितने कमिश्नड अफसरों को पाकिस्तान ने कैद किया है उससे कहीं कम एमरजेंसी कमिश्नड अफसरों को पाकिस्तान ने कैद किया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि इन लोगों ने अपनी जान की परवाह न करते हुए लड़ने का काम किया है।

ऐसे लोगों को आपने बाहर भेज दिया है, उनकी नौकरी का कोई इंतजाम नहीं किया है। लेकिन इसमें एक बड़ी खुशी की बात आप और देखें। इन लोगों को सरकार ने बताया कि अगले दस साल हम कभी भी तुम को वापिस बुला सकते हैं। कितनी गिरी हुई यह सरकार है। यह सरकार अब तो उन को सड़कों पर भेज रही है लेकिन साथ-साथ यह भी कहती है कि तुम नौकरी के लायक नहीं हो चूँकि अब लड़ाई नहीं हो रही है लेकिन कल को अगर तुम्हारी जरूरत पड़ी और लड़ाई हुई तो तुम को वापिस बुलाया जा सकता है। अब तो खाली चमचों वाली लड़ाई चलती है, इसलिये तुम नालायक हो लेकिन अगर पाकिस्तान से फिर लड़ने की नौबत आ जाएगी तो फिर तुम को बुलाया जाएगा और सस्ती से बुलाया जाएगा। इस तरह की बातों को देख कर हम जैसे लोगों का दिल रोता है। इसलिए रोता है कि ये वही नौजवान हैं जोकि स्कूल, कालेजों और दफ्तरों की अच्छी नौकरियां छोड़ कर गए थे और अब उनके साथ इस तरह का बरताव किया जा रहा है। इसको हम बरदाशत नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं एक इशारा दे कर खत्म कर दूंगा। अभी जो शार्ट कमिशन आपने शुरू किया है उस में तत्काल इनको लेने की आप व्यवस्था करें। जितनी जल्दी हो सकता है उनको वापिस लिया जाए या उनको काम दिलाया जाए। अगर ऐसा नहीं होता है तो मैं इशारा देना चाहता हूँ कि अगले एक दो महीनों में जैसे ये लोग पाकिस्तान के खिलाफ लड़े थे उसी तरह से इस सरकार के खिलाफ भी ये लोग लड़ सकते हैं और उनके सदन के बाहर लड़ने का काम का नेतृत्व हम करेंगे।

यह परिस्थिति हमारे सामने न आए, यह नौबत हमारे सामने न आए, इसलिए आप इस काम को पहले ही पूरा कर दें तो अच्छा है।

श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी (खारगोन) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय।

MR. SPEAKER : Everyday, I am repeating the rules. Only those who have already given their names are allowed to participate. Today, luckily, there are a very few of you here and I don't mind allowing two or three Members more to put questions. But we must follow the rules. Before the commencement of the discussion, you are expected to send your names. I will not mind giving a chance to you; it is not that I do not like it. I would like to give a chance to you. But supposing a large number of the Members are there, then half-an-hour discussion will become two-hour discussion. Today, of course, we have saved 10 minutes and, therefore, two or three more Members can be accommodated.

श्री शशि भूषण वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सब से पहले यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब किसी अहम प्रश्न पर बहस होती है, या प्रश्न पूछे जाते हैं तो हमें देश को हमेशा सामने रखना चाहिये और उस वक्त घमकियां आदि नहीं दी जानी चाहिये। यह जो घमकियां देने की प्रथा है, यह गलत है। इस में कोई शक नहीं कि जब पाकिस्तान की लड़ाई थी तब सैंकड़ों हजारों नौजवान आगे आये थे, जहां अफसर लोग आगे आये थे जानें देने के लिए, फौज में अफसरों के तौर पर भरती होने के लिए, वहां हजारों की तादाद में सिपाही बन कर देश की सेवा करने के लिए नौजवान भी सामने आए थे। जब कभी कोई संकट देश पर आएगा, जो लोग कहते हैं कि कल को वे नहीं आयेंगे उनको मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश के नौजवानों में आज भी अपने पूर्वजों का खून बहता है और लाखों की तादाद में वे मरने के लिये आगे आयेंगे, देश की रक्षा करने के लिये आगे आयेंगे और अपनी जान पर खेल कर देश की रक्षा करेंगे। यह कहना कि

सिफ नौकरी के लिए वे गए थे, इसको मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। ऐसा कहना उनके प्रति अन्याय करना है। जो भोग वास्तव में लड़े हैं या जो घायल हुए हैं इससे बड़ी कोई और क्या बात हो सकती है कि उनको नौकरी मिलनी चाहिये। उनको नौकरी जरूर दी जानी चाहिये। जहाँ जहाँ पहले मौका मिले उनको मौका मिलना चाहिये। जब यह कहा जाता है कि जिन अफसरों को आज नौकरी नहीं दी जा रही है वे कल को उठ खड़े होंगे तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि लाखों सिपाही हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसे हैं जो वापिस आ गए हैं और उन से कहा गया है कि उनको फिर वापिस बुलाया जा सकता है और उनकी तरफ भी आपकी ध्यान देना होगा। देश की आर्थिक व्यवस्था और सभी दूसरी चीजों को आप को देखना होगा। मैं प्रार्थना करूँगा कि इन लोगों को जहाँ तक सम्भव हो सके नौकरी दिलाई जानी चाहिये और जो सिपाही हैं, जो गरीब लोग हैं, जो रिक्रशा चलाते हैं, जो किसान परिवारों से आए हैं उनको भी आगे मौका मिलना चाहिये, उनके लिये भी कोई व्यवस्था आपकी तरफ से होनी चाहिये ताकि उनके दुख भी दूर हों।

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli) : I do not want to make a long speech on this. I am only supposed to put a question and I want to confine myself to the rule.

While thanking Dr. Karni Singh for having brought up this question, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what is it that stands in the way of his absorbing these men wherever vacancies in the permanent Commission are available. I know that in many cases, instead of absorbing them, these persons are called for several interviews from place to place and are asked to undergo a test for a junior job whereas they were holding a higher job in the temporary commission, and thereby they are degraded.

The second point is this. I would like to know whether, wherever vacancies occur in other departments, the Defence Ministry can find employment opportunities or these men directly instead of sending them to the Employment Exchanges and making them wait in the queue for long for no reason whatsoever.

Would the Government consider these two points and see that a better solution is found?

श्री एस० एम० जोशी (पूना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रक्षा मंत्री से यह जानना चाहूँगा कि जो लोग एमर्जेंसी कमीशन ले कर फौज में भर्ती हो गए वह तो उस वक्त के लिए हो गए। उन की बात छोड़ दीजिए। मगर अपने देश के हित के लिए अगर सोचा जाय तो उन लोगों को अच्छा अनुभव मिला है। लड़ाई में जब वह लड़े तो उन को अच्छा अनुभव मिला। जब उन को तजुर्बा मिला है, वह अफसर बने हैं तो उनको निकाल कर के नये नये बनाते हैं जिनको अनुभव ही नहीं है, ऐसा क्यों किया जाता है? इससे बेहतर यह होगा कि जो नये अफसर रखना चाहते हैं उन की संख्या जरा कम करिए। एन० डी० ए० में हर साल 100 लेते हैं तो आप कम लीजिए और इन लोगों को वहाँ रखिए। यह क्यों नहीं किया जाता है। मुझे तो शक है कि जैसे पुराने जमाने में हमारे एन० सी० पी० और एम० बी० बी० एस० का चलता था उसी तरह एन० डी० ए० वाले समझते हैं कि हम बड़े हैं हम ने ज्यादा तालीम पाई है। लेकिन इन की तालीम तो यहाँ हुई है। इसलिए मैं यह पूछना चाहूँगा कि इन को नियुक्त करने के लिए इस तरह का कोई प्रोग्राम हो सकता है या नहीं?

दूसरी बात कल मुझे एक कर्प्टन मिले जो एमरजेंसी कमीशन के थे, निकाले गए थे। यहाँ यूनियन पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन में आये और उन को बोर्डर एरिया पर भेजा। दूसरे उन को पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन की तरफ से कुछ ऐसा आया कि डी० एस० पी० के लिए भी उन का कुछ होने वाला था 8 तारीख को। 6 तारीख को उन को बोर्डर पर ज्वाइन करने का हुकम दिया गया। अब उन को यह हुआ कि अगर 6 को वहाँ ज्वाइन करते हैं तो 8 को यहाँ इंटरव्यू रह जायगा। तो वह मेरे पास आये। अच्छे आदमी थे। मैंने बोर्ड वाले को कहा कि इन को दो तीन दिन के लिए टाइम दे दो। तो वह तो कहते थे कि दे दिया। तो इस तरह

[श्री एस० एम० जोशी]

से कुछ ऐसा देखना चाहिए कि दो तीन दिन का इस तरह उनका फर्क पड़ता है तो उनको जरा मौका मिलना चाहिए। अगर उधर भी नहीं होता और इधर डी०एस०पी० की जगह भी निकल जाती तो वह कहीं के न रहते। इसलिए यह सहूलियत इस तरह की उन को मिलनी चाहिए। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि 6 तारीख को नहीं ज्वाइन किया तो उन का वह चांस चला गया।

श्री श्रीचन्द्र गोखल (चण्डीगढ़) : मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इन लोगों को जिन को हम वापस भेज रहे हैं योग्यता की दृष्टि से इन के संबंध में क्या स्थिति है? जब वह लड़ाई में लड़े हैं, अनुभव प्राप्त किया है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि या तो गवर्नमेंट यह कहे कि यह लड़ाई के योग्य नहीं हैं, इन की जो कार्यवाहियां रही हैं, इन को जो सर्विस है उसमें आगे यह काम करने के लिये अनफिट हैं, बरना जहां नई भर्ती की बात जारी है, एक तरफ हम नई भर्ती कर रहे हैं दूसरी तरफ अनुभवों लोगों को निकालते जा रहे हैं, तो यह परस्पर विरोधी स्थिति समझ में नहीं आती।

दूसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दूसरी तरफ हम एक तलवार लटका रहे हैं उन के विरुद्ध कि उन को फिर दस साल के अन्दर वापस बुलाया जा सकता है, क्या इस का अर्थ यह है कि अगर वह किसी दूसरी नौकरी में लिए जाते हैं तो वहां उन की नौकरी स्थायी नहीं होगी और फिर यह बुला सकेंगे? इसलिए उन की तो गर्दन पर हमेशा यह तलवार लटकती रहेगी। इस सिलसिले में मैं स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ।

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह (खगरिया) : सरकार का जो व्यवहार एमर्जेंसी कमीशंड आफिसर्स के साथ हो रहा है यह पूर्णतया एक तरफा व्यवहार है। एक तरफ तो कहते हैं कि दस साल के अन्दर जब भी जरूरत पड़ेगी तो बुला लेंगे, दूसरी ओर जब उन की नौकरी का सवाल आता है.....

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I want to clarify one thing as more than one hon'ble Member have talked of this compulsory liability. The point is: there is no such liability. Initially there was, but I have relaxed it. I think I have made a statement in the House also. It is limited to five years and it is purely voluntary. Those who want to remain on the reserve, can remain. I thought I should clarify the factual position.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : खैर, इस बात को मैं छोड़ देता हूँ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जब यह एमर्जेंसी कमीशंड आफिसर सर्विस सेलेक्शन बोर्ड के सामने जाते हैं तो उस में जो अधिकारी रहते हैं उन का वही व्यवहार होता है उन आफिसर्स के साथ जो कि एक आई० सी० एस० सोचता है नये अफसर के लिये कि यह लोग तो बात करने के काबिल ही नहीं हैं और वह लोग बराबर इस बात की कोशिश में रहते हैं कि नये-नये आफिसर एन० डी० ए० के थू लें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि इस समय अगर इन लोगों को यहां काम नहीं दिया जा सकता है तो दूसरी जगह काम दिया जा सकता है। आप के पास इतनी पब्लिक सेक्टर इंडस्ट्रीज हैं उन में उन को नौकरी दी जा सकती है। परन्तु पब्लिक सेक्टर इंडस्ट्रीज वगैरह में वहां जो अन्वाइंटमेंट्स होते हैं वह जाति पांति का ध्यान रख कर होते हैं इसलिए उन को वहां आप नहीं लेते हैं।

तो मेरा प्रश्न बिलकुल स्पष्ट है, मैं आश्वासन चाहता हूँ इस सदन में, बिलकुल निश्चित तरह बतावें कि कब तक इनका समाधान हो जायगा, इन को नौकरी इत्यादि देने का? स्पष्ट रूप से यह बतावें।

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : Is there any rule against the absorption of these emergency commissioned officers in the regular cadre? If there is any such rule then are steps being taken to change such rules so that these officers could be absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : I am grateful to the hon. Members for having raised this very important question because it enables me to clarify certain matters about which there appears to be some misunderstanding. In my brief intervention just a minute ago, I did clarify the position about compulsory liability, a point which was referred to by three hon. Members who had participated in the discussion. It is true that according to the original regulations, there was a reserve liability for ten years after their being released, and it was compulsory. But this matter was raised on the floor of the House, and I myself took that matter up. Now, the position is that it is voluntary; it is for the released officer to decide of his own volition whether he wants to serve in the reserve or not. If he does not want to serve then there is no liability for him to serve. If he wants to serve, then also the period is five years and not ten years. This is one clarification that I would like to make.

As regards the general sentiment that has been expressed, I fully share it that these young officers came forward at a time when there was need for their services and at a time when we were faced with the problem of expanding our Army. To put the whole thing in proper perspective, I may mention this that immediately after the Chinese aggression in 1962, we took a decision by reassessing our defence requirements that our Army should expand rapidly, and it was, therefore, considered necessary that there should be officers in order to enable us to expand the Army. The emergency commission recruitments took place from the year 1963 onwards soon after the Chinese aggression, and several batches were recruited so that there might be officers available at various levels to enable us to recruit a large number of other ranks, soldiers and JCOs and the like so that we could rapidly expand our Armed Forces.

It should be appreciated and it was also made clear at that time that for the emergency commission officers who were then coming forward, there would be certain relaxations in the matter of age; several other relaxations were also introduced quite obviously to ensure a large number of officers to be able to come forward and supply or fill the need that existed at the officers' level when we

were rapidly increasing the number or the strength of our Armed Forces.

The third point which I want to submit is that this problem of certain age groups and blocks is a matter which is of very vital importance. If there are a large number of officers of a particular age group, and if we do not take appropriate steps at the right moment, then the retirement of that block would be postponed for some time and there may be an occasion when a large number of people of a particular block might leave the Army leaving a big void, and again a large number of people of particular age group will have to be recruited. So, it should be appreciated that if we had to take this decision which we know is not a very popular decision, it was purely in the interests of creating a situation where there may not be a large block of officers who may have to retire at a particular age and who may block the recruitment of younger people earlier. Of course, it is necessary that experience is of prime importance, but then youth in the Army also is of equal importance. If we do not take steps to bring in younger people year after year at the officer level at an appropriate age, that also will come in the way of keeping our army young. So it was for these reasons that we had to take these various steps.

श्री एस० एम० जॉशी : उन में से कुछ प्रयोजन रखिये ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am coming to that.

Take younger people, give them short service commission for five years and then also have younger people who will come up for training these are the reasons which prompted us to undertake this thing.

Now the question has quite rightly been agitating the minds for hon. Members about the steps that are being taken to give them permanent commissions or to give them alternative appointments. It is true that even if there is one man who is unemployed comes, naturally I will be influenced, you will be influenced, all of us will be influenced. But still it is important to see as to whether the effort Government have made in this direction is something which is worthwhile or not. For this I cannot do better than give the actual figures of those who have got

[Shri Swaran Singh]

permanent commissions and those who have got alternative employment and other relevant figures.

Only two batches, that is, Emergency Commission I and Emergency Commission II have been released so far. The total number of these officers in these two commissions, EC I and EC II, is 2512. I am giving these figures in detail because the hon. Member for Bikaner disputed the figures and relied upon some press statement. The total number of officers concerned in these two batches is 2512. Now out of this, as many as 954 have been given permanent commission. You will appreciate that this is about 40 per cent of the officers who were due for retirement. We should also remember that at the time of the emergency recruitment, although they came forward with the highest of motives and therefore we are beholden to them, there was relaxation of standards and officers who may have come forward for emergency purposes may not be quite appropriate and suitable for permanent absorption. All these officers were actually interviewed by appropriate service selection boards. As many as 954 out of these that is about 40 per cent, made the grade and they have been given permanent commission; Out of this number, 662 have already got alternative employment 75 are either cases of resignation or cases in which their services were terminated for disciplinary reasons or on account of inefficiency. Then 277 out of this batch were non-optees, that is, they themselves said that they are not interested in asking for permanent commission. This case, therefore, is in a different category altogether. Then 235 are cases of persons with previous civilian jobs; their jobs are reserved for them and if they go back, they will get those jobs.

श्री आर्ब करनेबीज : सब जगह ऐसा नहीं होता है।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: If those cases are brought to my notice, we will certainly process those cases.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Did they have any lien before they left their jobs?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: We have ensured that orders have been issued by the

Home Ministry and also by all State Governments, that if the officers who were taken in the emergency commission held civil appointments, they hold a lien and can go back to them.

To put the picture in a proper perspective, some of them were holding civilian jobs which were generally non-gazetted, getting Rs. 150 or so. They were lucky and became officers. Their liens will obviously be on those posts. Generally they feel some dissatisfaction, some disinclination to go back to a job which they think is very much inferior as compared to the officer's job that they occupied in the army. There can be a grievance on that score, but there is no difficulty in going back to the same job, plus certain increments which might have been earned in the meantime.

So, 309 is the only number which is left out of 2512.

DR. KARNI SINGH: But 300 is still a lot of people.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: So, when hon. members make these statements that every one is on the roadside and nothing is being done,.....

Dr. KARNI SINGH: What is happening to these 300?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: There are various avenues open to them. Some of them have actually appeared for all-India competitive examinations for I.A.S., Indian Revenue Service etc., and there is reservation for them. There is limited competition amongst the emergency commissioned officers only. Personally I am aware that a large number have appeared in those examinations, and in view of the percentage reserved for them, I am sure that when the results are out, a fairly large number of them will qualify.

There are reservations in several other Central Government departments. Several other State Governments have issued orders for reservations of jobs for emergency commissioned officers. We are in touch with the State Governments, we have written to them, and they have assured us that they have actually issued notifications and the like, reserving a certain percentage for emergency commission officers. So, as many of them as come up to the standard will get jobs against reservation and will be absorbed.

(H.A.H. Dts.)

Several members suggested that we should get employment for them in the public sector undertakings and also with the private employers. We addressed more than 50 important private sector employers, big companies commercial and industrial, but I must say that the response has not been too good. One of the reasons that they mention is that with the current recession, with the present economic position in the country, there is not any large scale avenue for fresh employment, and therefore the number of posts are limited.

Several State undertakings have also reserved a certain quota for these emergency commissioned officers. Some of this information is available to the emergency commissioned officers, some of it is not available, and naturally any officer who is facing this problem is in a state of mind where he is excited because he does not know about this future. Naturally, all of us have sympathy for him, but I have no doubt in my mind that with steps that we have taken and are taking, they will get employment. We are continuously processing their cases through the Director-General of Resettlement, where a special cell has been organised to look after their cases. It is as a result of these efforts that such a large number of officers have found employment in other spheres also; their cases will continue to receive our utmost attention.

As has been stated by hon. Members, we should have confidence in the patriotism of our people and when the defence of the country is involved, it is true that pay, etc., is one thing, but there are much higher motives. I have no doubt in my mind that in any emergency, a very large number of young men will be forthcoming to serve their country, for, it is not money that is involved in such a situation, but it is really the honour and the dignity of the country. I have no doubt that even the manner in which we deal with the ECOs is one of greatest sympathy and we will continue to make every effort to find other avenues of employment for them.

DR. KARNI SINGH: Sir, I would like to have one assurance from the hon. Minis-

ters: that the 309 men that he mentioned are going to have some sort of new avenues, competitive avenues, open to them. We should like to know from him whether he will assure us that all the 309 will be employed suitably within a period three months from today?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am sorry it will not be realistic for me to give an assurance like that.

SHRI NAMBIAR: At least within a period of six months from now, if not three months. He must give us some idea. The Government is so big and the State Governments and the employing authorities are so many that it is not as the Central Government cannot get employment for 300 young men. We want to know from the Government.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज : मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया कि उन के सामने एक दिक्कत उभर की रही है कि सभी लोगों एक उम्र के हैं तो मेरा कहना है कि एक दिन ऐसा आ सकता है जब हमारे पास कोई लोग ही नहीं रहेंगे : मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि हमें जैसा उन्हें सुन कर लगा कि यह लायकी का प्रश्न और उम्र का प्रश्न उन्होंने उठाया है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय इन सारी चीजों को संसद के सदस्यों के साथ मिल कर उन पर विचार करने के लिये तैयार हैं ताकि यह जो सारी गलतफहमी है उस को हम दूर कर सकें ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I am prepared to sit with any hon. Member; the hon. Members are most welcome, and I will give all the information, because it is our desire to keep our army young and strong and we will do our best for these ECOs. I will be very happy to discuss it with any hon. Member.

18-33 HRS-

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 11, 1967 | Agrahayana 20, 1889 (Saka).