

Pradesh were two such persons. Will the Hon. Minister do something in the memory of these historical figures, to whom the entire nation is grateful? Will he arrange to celebrate the days of their historic deeds at the national and state levels?

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : There is no dispute about it. We will ask the State Government to do it.

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA : These people have lost their valuable lives in the freedom struggle of Assam. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government has taken any decision to preserve the memories of those martyrs?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been told that this will be done jointly.

[English]

Schemes to inform the youth about opportunities in Defence field

*536. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any specific schemes have been proposed to make the youth of our country more aware of opportunities in the field of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response to these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

There is constant endeavour on the part of Government to make the youth of the country more aware of opportunities in the field of Defence.

2. Vacancies for the officer cadre in the Defence Services, where recruitment is through the UPSC, are notified in the Gazette of India, the Employment News and in the daily news-papers. Likewise, wide publicity is also given through the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, Government of India, of vacancies to be filled up through direct entry (Non-UPSC) where tests are held by the Services Selection Board.

3. Recruitment to other ranks in the Services is mainly done through the 71 Branch Recruiting Offices, which conduct recruitment tours and organise rallies. Advance information on these tours/rallies is given to the District Civil authorities and local Sainik Boards.

4. In addition to dissemination of information on vacancies, publicity on career opportunities in the Defence Services is given through radio and television, the print media, motivational lectures in schools and colleges, by enrolment in the NCC, opening of Sainik Schools and by other attractive methods like air and para dropping displays.

5. The response to the recruitment efforts in all branches except a few technical branches is adequate. Even in these branches the level of satisfaction has shown considerable improvement of late.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Recruitment to the lower ranks of Defence is mainly done through various recruiting offices scattered in different parts of the country. However, it is a pity that in my state of Kerala every time thousands of able bodied young men with high academic records behind them, are even denied opportunities to be examined. It may be due to increased number of applications. Under the circumstances may I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government will ensure that more and more youngsters at least get an opportunity to be examined and the entire process of recruiting is not made a farce in the future?

SHRI ARUN SINGH : I would start by saying that I categorically deny that the

process of recruitment is a farce. We are a purely volunteer defence service. In the circumstances, so far as publicity given to the defence services is concerned and its effect on recruitment, I can only say that there is no problem in terms of recruitment. We get all the people we want and we get them on the basis of the registered male population of India which is the basis for recruitment. If specific instances are known to the Hon. Member in terms of Kerala, I shall be happy if he lets us know that and I will certainly look into that. But to call it farce, I think, is a poor term.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : It is reported that certain officers who are entrusted with the recruitment affairs are corrupt officers and it has created a controversy all over the country. May I know whether such instances have been brought to the notice of the Government and, if so, what deterrent action has been taken by the Government in this connection?

SHRI ARUN SINGH : Sir, the Member seems to be in the habit of globalising every issue. Certainly, there have been instances of corruption in the recruitment process. There is absolutely no hesitation on the part of the Government to deal firmly with any officer or any other individual found to be corrupt. There is a very clear process by which the CBI investigates such cases. In the event that any actionable offence is found, general court martial is held and in the event of the general court martial upholding the offence, the officer is dismissed. Should the Member have any specific case known to him, he may please bring it to our notice.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Army has a glorious tradition and the officers and jawans of our Armed Forces guard our frontiers in all sectors by keeping a constant vigil. The reply given by the Hon. Minister is, I think, too inadequate. I want to know what schemes Government have to attract youths to serve in the Armed Forces. The Hon. Minister has said that they make direct recruitment. The schemes of the Government in this regard

are totally inadequate. I want to know the percentage of officers and jawans who leave Army service during the course of their term. The Government do nothing for the families of those officers and jawans who are posted in the forward area, so much so that there is no reservation for their children for getting admission in schools. Just tell me, if the Government do not provide them reservation, why would youth join the Army and preserve its glorious traditions and maintain discipline in difficult and hard conditions.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : So far as recruitment is concerned, I have already stated that there is no problem.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : I want to know about those who leave the army during the course of their term.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : The Hon. Member is talking about pre-mature retirement. I do not have the information right now in respect of the specific number of such cases. The question basically relates to advertisement, but I would surely send her the information. I can say this much that the cases of pre-mature retirement are governed by specific rules and action is taken there under. I would like to make a submission at-a-risk that.

[English]

The percentage of people leaving under the various schemes available for pre-mature retirement is marginal.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly, youths are the most valuable asset of our country and the attractive offers given to them for recruitment in the army are also commendable. But, although 18 sainik schools are functioning in the country today and a huge amount of Central as well as State funds are being spent on them, yet what percentage of students get entry to the different disciplines of the Indian Army? My second supplementary is whether Government propose to make military training compulsory in schools and colleges in the near future to

prepare the youths for guarding country's frontiers ?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SINGH : Sir, the Hon. Member is stretching it too far. I have got figures only in terms of how many people from Sainik Schools have entered the Services. 3,931 officers of the Indian Armed Forces are from the Sainik Schools. In so far as compulsory military training is concerned, it has got nothing to do with this question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that Government takes very strict action whenever complaints about corruption in recruitment are brought to the notice of the Government. I hope the Minister would agree that in recruitment, if the soldier, who is expected to lay down his life in defence of the country, has to pay anything up to Rs. ten thousand to get enrolled and there are numerous complaints, the morale of our defence services is bound to suffer. Even the other day, in the newspapers, there was a big write up about corruption in the recruitment agencies. Government may be taking action where complaints are brought to their notice. But it remains a fact that people who have to pay money for enrolment are not expected to go in for complaints because they will be thrown out and there would not be any benefit from it. So, what mechanism Government has set up to exercise strict vigilance at the recruiting offices by sending decoys to get people caught who accept money and who employ local agents to fleece the people for enrolment. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to see and ensure that at least in recruitment of Defence Services there is no scope for corruption at all ?

SHRI ARUN SINGH : Sir, it is entirely the responsibility of the Government to ensure that there is no corruption in the process of recruitment for the Armed Forces. In so far as the publicity that was referred to is concerned, the Hon. Member is probably aware that there was the specific case in which the CBI were investigating and on the basis of the result of the CBI investigation the publicity emerged. In so far as measures taken are concerned, I fully agree with the Hon. Member that it is not good enough only to take action in terms of those cases which may or

may not be brought to the notice. Therefore, the process by which recruitment is done required review. This has been carried out in very broad terms and what we have done is as follows :

Earlier, the system was that people used to come to a recruiting office and there would be a recruitment parade, as it were, including medical examination, the physical examination and the like as a consequence of which people were recruited in the armed forces. We found that because there were certain guaranteed centres where recruitment could take place, that process had emerged over a time by which, as the Hon. Member pointed out, certain people appointed themselves as self-appointed agents in the process of recruitment. To quote an example, there was one case which I remember off-hand where a particular individual would take money, as it were, from every boy going in and refund the money to those who did not get selected. He had a completely free ride. So, we thought that the concept was wrong to have a fixed place where recruitment would take place which will land itself to this kind of problem. So, we switched over the system in two ways. One is that no longer does one individual recruit the people. It is now a Board which will recruit. The second is that we have taken recruitment to the people he opposed to bringing people to recruitment office, through the process of recruitment melas...

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Why not through the Employment Exchanges ?

SHRI ARUN SINGH : It is a military recruitment, not recruitment for industries.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : Then the corruption will be higher.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : So, what we do, Sir, is that we send the recruiting parties around the villages and they now recruit people at specific places on the route. I can categorically assure the Hon. Member that it is definitely the Government's responsibility to curb corruption in the area and we will make every effort to curb it.