

श्री भोलू प्रसाद : मैं तथ्य उपस्थित करने के लिये तैयार हूँ। ... (ब्यवधान) ...

MR. SPEAKER: Now drop it please. That is enough.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मुझे अपनी स्थिति बताने दीजिये क्योंकि सौरियज्ञ एलियेशनस लगाये गये हैं। मेरा कहना सिर्फ इतना ही है कि मैं जो कार्लिंग अटेन्शन देता हूँ वह दस बजे के पहले ही देता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि या तो आप इसकी इन्क्वायरी करवा लीजिये ... (ब्यवधान) ... मैं समझता हूँ कि इसकी इन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिये और श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु जी ने कहा है उसको वे लिखकर दें और फिर इन्क्वायरी के बाद अगर उनकी बात गलत निकले तो वे इस्तीफा दें और अगर मेरी निकलेगी तो मैं इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। वरना ये जो चार्ज हैं उनको वापिस लेना चाहिये। ... (ब्यवधान) ...

MR. SPEAKER: This matter, as explained by Mr. Banerjee, appears like this that Mr. Basu was informed that there is only one name. When all these were discussed, he told me that there was one of the earlier date also pending.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Why don't the two names go for ballot? (Interruptions).

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, काज आफ कम्प्लेंट तो मेरी है। यह जो नोटिस थी, वह पहले बैलट होनी चाहिये थी और मेरा नम्बर पहले आना चाहिये था। इस तरह से काज आफ कम्प्लेंट तो मेरी है।

12.19 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE
RE. RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister

of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported statement made by the Minister of Defence urging the States to help in resettlement of ex-servicemen in the States."

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 8th meeting of the Indian Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Board was held on the 18th April, 1970 at Jaipur under my chairmanship. The main aim of the Board is to look into the problems of ex-Servicemen. The interest being taken in this matter by the States was evident from the fact that the meeting was attended by two Chief Ministers, Ministers from some States and senior representatives from others. At the meeting I explained that for keeping the army young and fit for action, it was necessary to release a large percentage of men, JCOs and officers at comparatively younger age than is the practice on the civil side. Their rehabilitation must, therefore, be considered to be a national problem. Moreover, their training and background of hard and disciplined life is a social asset which should be used to our advantage by utilising their services in all spheres of life.

I took this opportunity to draw the attention of all concerned to the various aspects of rehabilitation/resettlement of officers, JCOs and other Ranks and more particularly of the released ECOs who had responded to our call at a difficult time. I explained that more than one third of the ECOs had been given permanent commissions and many of them had been observed in reserved and other vacancies under government, in private and public sectors, in agriculture and co-operatives; several have gone back to their old appointments, but a substantial proportion still remain to be rehabilitated. I commended their case to the State representatives for special consideration and intensification of efforts towards their speedy resettlement. For the Other Ranks, I mentioned that considerable improvement can be achieved by a

more sympathetic approach from district officials and through the full co-operation of employment exchanges. In this connection, I reiterated the concern which the Government and Parliament have regarding this problem. I am glad to say that all representatives of the States fully responded to my appeal and discussed several measures which could go to help in the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen. They promised whole-hearted co-operation in this matter and I am hopeful that with sustained efforts and the help of State and District authorities, we can look forward to significant improvement in this matter.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: When Chinese aggression came number of these people with better prospects before them like doctors and other business and professions before them, left all of them in the interest of the country and they joined the army and they became JCOs and ECOs. They have served the country very well at a time of need and they have protected the motherland. After their use, the Government have dropped them. They say that these are emergency officers and many of these people have been disbanded. They have become ex-army men now. When they want to go in for employment they are told, there is no job for them. They are not able to get any job. In their own field, in engineering, as doctors, etc. there are many people younger in age. Since these people are advanced in age; they are not able to get Government jobs. Even in public sector corporations like Fertilizer Corporation, Steel Corporation and Heavy Engineering Corporation, I have seen, many of these people have applied for jobs. But they are not able to get jobs. Only people with recommendations from Ministers and their relations are being appointed and these people are not getting jobs. In my constituency itself I know of such a case. One man of my constituency, an emergency officer was in a similar situation. He stayed here in Delhi for several months and he could not get a job.

He is told to take his turn. Like this, we find that these ex-service men have lost their jobs; they lost their prospects. Government is not in a position to help them. Government does not take interest to help them.

Today the ex-servicemen are observing fast before the Prime Minister's house. They are doing this in order to bring this fact to the notice of the Government. They have brought it to the notice of the Prime Minister. When they are fasting in front of the Prime Minister's house, the Prime Minister should have at least come before the House and made a statement. Instead of that we have to bring that to the notice of the House.

What are the steps that Government is taking to resettle them? Another important thing I wish to bring to your notice is this. The Gurkha regiment has been disbanded. The Chinese are employing them and they are paying more money and engaging their services so that they might be used against our country with their experience. What is the Government going to do about that so that these Gurkhas do not go and join the Chinese people? And what are the Government going to do to bring them back here and settle them in our country for the defence of our country? (*Interruptions*). We have a very big border facing Pakistan, China and other countries. Why cannot this Government try to draw up a programme to resettle these people on the borders so that they can guard our country at the time of emergency. Will the Government consider this proposal? In Kashmir, today, no ex-servicemen can go and purchase a land there and settle himself there. Will the Government permit them to settle in Kashmir by purchasing lands there?

May I know whether the Government will issue orders that ex-servicemen will get the first priority in getting jobs in these public sector undertakings? Also will the Government insist on the limited companies to whom they give loans that these ex-army men must be given first preference in the matter of appointment? Will the Government issue directions to them that in hospitals, engineering and other concerns, these ex-servicemen must be given first preference?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall try to answer the points which the hon. Member has raised.

First of all, I would like to say that the

[Shri Swaran Singh]

problem of the ECOs is not so much with regard to doctors or engineers because most of them have been absorbed. If there are any specific cases, I am prepared to look into them. These are the categories in which there are still shortages in the army. On the technical side, I am sure, the problem is not likely to present any serious difficulty. But, in the general cadre, there is a difficulty. Instead of making a general statement, I would like to take the opportunity of giving some figures from which the hon. Members can judge for themselves as to what has been done, what is proposed to be done and what is the size of the problem. The total number of ECOs who were on our rolls was 8,846.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What has happened to those who have not registered themselves ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There is no question of registering by individual officers. We know each individual. There are officers who have been on our rolls and we know about each individual. He is not expected to register himself. We know as to who is the ECO and what is their number.

The total number is 8,846 after excluding those who were either killed in action or who were not accounted for. Out of this, 3,702 officers have been graded fit for grant of permanent commission.

This means a fairly high percentage, about 42%. 2354 have been resettled or reverted to their civilian jobs. 359 officers have either refused assistance or have been released on disciplinary grounds. Therefore, we have nothing further to do with regard to them.

Of the total number of 8,846, about 2,400 ECOs in the general cadre remain to be resettled. This also includes those who have still to be released. So it is good to know the size of the problem. In actual terms, of the total number, some have either been granted permanent commission or have been resettled either in civil government service or in state undertakings, public sector undertakings, some

in private sector - also. The percentage that remains unsettled is about 27.5. This is a little more than one-fourth of the total number involved.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What about the lower cadres, sepoy and others ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I mentioned that also.

About the ECOs, it is true that this number is large, but we have to keep in mind the basic fact that these officers were recruited for emergency ; it was not a permanent commission.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : For facing bullets ; now they are starving.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I will be quite frank. I have every sympathy for them, but we must know the facts clearly.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Lip sympathy.

SHRI SWARN SINGH : We had to lower the standard of recruitment when ECOs were taken. Even with a further relaxation, there will be some number who cannot make the grade for permanent absorption in the Army. This is the hard reality which has to be accepted. At the same time, we took several steps to find employment for them under the Central Government, under State Governments, in the private and public sectors and also in several other spheres. I have stated the number of persons absorbed. Still the number on our hands is sizeable. We are continuing our effort not only for employment but also to help them reestablish themselves so that they become useful members of society. In this respect, cooperatives of ECOs and also several other arrangements by way of financing, if they are interested in small scale industries—are being made. These are the various steps we are taking besides giving them the employment I have already stated.

As for the other persons, besides ECOs there also I would like to state the size of the problem. I think about 50,000 persons after finish-

ing their tenure as JCOs, sepoy and others are likely to be released because now the size of our Army is pretty large. They have to go back to their civilian work. If he was a peasant, he has to go back and till the land; and if he has an industrial and urban background, with some training he will be back in civilian employment. So it is a sort of co-ordinate effort that we have made to look after the ex-servicemen.

The point has been made that they should also be resettled on certain land. We have taken some steps. More have to be taken. In this respect, we should be able to take help from the State Governments who are primarily in charge of land. Unless they co-operate, this cannot be done.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : What about border areas ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : All border areas have State Governments excepting NEFA where we are ourselves doing something. Therefore we have to carry the State Governments with us. We are doing our best. This was one of the points discussed in the Jaipur meeting. I have already mentioned that both in the public sector and in the private sector we are trying to find out employment for them.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What about Gurkhas in Nepal who are going into the hands of the Chinese ?

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratnagiri) : I may be allowed to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is not there.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The Gurkhas belong to Nepal. The Gurkhas have gone back to Nepal. They are within the jurisdiction of the Government of Nepal. If they want any help, we are prepared to give them, but they are free citizens. They have been joining several armies. They have joined the Indian army. Formerly they were in Singapore and Malaysia also as members of the British army. They might be employed on the civil side by other organisations. In respect of those who

might want help, we will be certainly prepared to help.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा कि 50,000 व्यक्ति हर साल मिलेटरी से बाहर आते हैं और उन की जो ऐज है, वह 35 साल से 45 साल के बीच में होती है यानी वह काफी यंग होते हैं। उन भूतपूर्व सैनिकों के रिहैबिलिटेशन की स्कोम्स जो सेंटर या स्टेट्स में हैं, वह केवल आईवाश हैं और केवल कुछ लोगों को उनका लाभ हुआ है। हकीकत यह है कि करीब 90-95 प्रतिशत लोगों को सरकार की इस स्कीम से लाभ नहीं हुआ। केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास एक छोटा सा सैल है आपके डिपार्टमेंट में जोकि बहुत पुअरली आर्गनाइज्ड है और बहुत लो लेवल पर है। कोई बहुत सीनियर आफिसर उसके साथ नहीं है। स्टेट्स में भी ऐसे लोगों की रिहैबिलिटेशन की कोई एफैक्टिव स्कीम नहीं है। दरअसल यह एक तरह से आईवाश है। ज्यादातर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स पर आपने इसे छोड़ दिया है कि वह करेंगे। दरअसल वह कुछ करते नहीं हैं और उनकी जो ट्रेनिंग है, उसका लाभ देश को आगे भी मिलता रहे खास कर इमरजेंसी में और उन पर जो करोड़ों रुपया खर्च हुआ है वह बेकार न जाय और देश को आगे भी उनसे लाभ मिलता रहे उसके लिए आवश्यक व्यवस्था करने की ओर भी सरकार का ध्यान नहीं है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने कोई सर्वे किया है कि यह प्रान्त्व कितनी बड़ी है, यदि नहीं किया है तो क्या अब करेंगे कि और मालूम करेंगे कि यह प्रान्त्व कितनी बड़ी है? मेरा कहना है कि अभी गवर्नमेंट को मालूम ही नहीं है कि यह कितनी बड़ी प्रान्त्व है; क्या है अथवा क्या नहीं है।

दूसरी चीज जैसे कि बीरडर पर उनके रिसैटिलमेंट करने की बात है तो आपके पास कुछ प्लान बने भी होंगे, आपके पास प्रपोजल्स

[श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त]

आये होंगे लेकिन केवल कुछ ही हजार लोगों को रिहैबिलिटेट किया गया है और लोगों को नहीं किया गया है। अब जैसे राजस्थान है, ईस्ट बंगाल है, नागालैंड है, कश्मीर है, असम है या नेफा है, यह जो बौरडर स्टेट्स हैं तो क्या इनमें जैसा कि सरदार हुकम सिंह ने उस पिछली मीटिंग में कहा था कि इस प्रकार से बौरडर के ऊपर उन लोगों को सैटिल करना चाहिए जिससे कि देश की सिक्थोरिटी को भी लाभ होगा, उनकी ट्रेनिंग का देश को लाभ आये भी मिल सकेगा तो क्या मंत्री महोदय चीफ मिनिस्टर्स की कान्फ्रेंस में उनसे यह इश्यू लेकर कोई रास्ता निकालेंगे जिससे ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों का रिहैबिलिटेशन इन बौरडर स्टेट्स में हो सके ?

तीसरी चीज मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय यह सी० आर० पी०, बौरडर सिक्थोरिटी फोर्स, इंडस्ट्रियल सिक्थोरिटी फोर्स यह जो उनकी पुलिस फोर्स है और जो कि सेंटर के तहत है, उनके अन्दर रिजरवेशन का एक परसेंटेज कोटा तय करेंगे कि इतने परसेंट लोगों को जरूर वहाँ पर नौकरी मिल सके ? इस तरह की क्या उनके पास कोई एक एफैक्टिव स्कीम है ?

आखिर में अभी मंत्री महोदय ने वह जो दो पेज का बयान पढ़ा है, उसमें उन्होंने कोई कौनक्रीट स्टेप नहीं बतलाया है कि इस चीज के लिए क्या स्टेप उन्होंने उठाया है और वह उन्हें रिहैबिलिटेट करने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं। मैं उनकी एक लाइन यहाँ पढ़ देना चाहता हूँ :

"I am glad to say that all representatives of the States fully responded to my appeal and discussed several measures which could go to help in the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen."

यानी डिस्कस कर लिया और आप खुश हो गये लेकिन क्या स्टेप्स आप ने उठाये हैं, उनसे क्या असर होगा, प्राब्लम कितनी बड़ी है और उसका कितना असर होगा मंत्री महोदय यह तो बतलायें ? मंत्री जी बतलायें कि आखिर कौन से कौनक्रीट स्टेप्स उन्होंने उठाये हैं और उनका क्या असर होगा ?

आखिर में जैसा उन्होंने कहा, गोरखा लोग नेपाल जा रहे हैं और उससे हमें अपनी फौज में गोरखों की भरती नहीं मिलेगी, जो कि बहुत जरूरी है। मेरा कहना यह है कि इन गोरखों को अपनी तरफ से आप आकर कौजिये कि हम आपका रिहैबिलिटेशन यहाँ चाहते हैं, नहीं तो चाइना के साथ उनकी सिम्पैथी बढ़ रही है जो हमारे लिये खतरनाक बात है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में आप क्या कर रहे हैं।

जो इमर्जेंसी कमांडन के आफिसर बैठे हुए हैं, आप उनसे मिल कर पर्सनली उनसे बात चीत करके इस बात के लिये कोई रास्ता निकालें कि वह अपना घरना और व्रत समाप्त कर दें।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The first point he mentioned was that the rehabilitation or the resettlement cell was manned by a comparatively junior officer. That is not correct. There are other senior officers and the head of the organisation is a Major General who goes round the States and is in touch with various State Governments.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Why cannot you form a Parliamentary Committee to look into the whole matter ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : If the hon. Members are interested I shall give figures about the actual number of ex-servicemen. The problem of resettlement and rehabilitation does not extend to all ex-servicemen ; it is only at a certain age—level that this problem exists and

the State Governments have collected some figures. It was again agreed in the last meeting in Jaipur that they should bring the figures up to date.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Have you got any figures with you?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Thirty thousand.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi): Only 30,000?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Thirty lakhs. I have already said that 50,000 retire every year; obviously it cannot be thirty thousand. But I should not stick to this figure; it may require alteration. As soon as the exact figures are available, if the hon. Member wants them he can get that information from me.

About the settlement in the border areas in various States we should keep in mind the conditions that prevail in the border areas of all the States; it varies from State to State. For instance, in Punjab people already plough land right up to the border and there is very little scope for resettlement there. On the Rajasthan border areas, the problem is mainly of water and some investigations are being made and the Rajasthan Government are investigating. This matter was discussed and there seems to be some chance but the matter requires further investigation... (Interruptions.)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why not appoint a parliamentary Committee?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: In West Bengal there is very little scope for resettlement. There is some scope in NEFA and that is being investigated. In Jammu and Kashmir also there are some restrictions which are part of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and they are trying to settle their own ex-servicemen, those who belong to that region, in certain areas in the border. But it is only in the lower part, particularly in the Jammu region, that there is some scope and the State Government is investigating the possibility.

About the CRP and the police force, there

is no percentage at present. There is percentage for selection at a higher level for ECOs both in the security forces and in the State armed forces and the rest; there is no percentage at present for other ranks and such of them who qualify and who are of the acceptable age group are recruited.

Then, about the Gurkhas, I would like the hon. Member to understand the international complications. Those Gurkhas who served our army are entitled to go back to their own country, to Nepal, and in their own country it is their Government who looks after them. There are some Gurkhas who want to stay on in India. There is no restriction; we help them in a certain measure, but we can not project ourselves in relation to those Gurkhas who decide to go back to their own villages. (Interruption) It will be very unwise from the international point of view to go and try to look after them, except to make payment for their pension or do something more by way of hospital facilities or may be some education. But those who may like to settle here, we should think of those problems, and should not, under this garb, try to have a stick or a finger into their problems if they are settled in Nepal. This creates other complications, and we should be careful when we make such a suggestion.

About the fast of the ECOs, I would appeal to them that they should give up the fast, because we are doing all that is possible for them. (Interruption.) As I have said, a large percentage of them, 70 per cent of their total number, have either been granted permanent commission or they have been resettled or they have found other jobs. This is the hard core, and we are trying to do our best.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : आप उनसे मिलते क्यों नहीं हैं ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: If the hon. Member has any influence with them, I would request him to join me in making the appeal because fasting does not solve any problem.