

LOK SABHA

Statement

—
Friday, November 18, 1983|Kartika
27, 1905.(Saka)
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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

प्रादेशिक सेना के कर्मचारियों की पेंशन में प्रस्तावित वृद्धि

*62. श्री राम प्यारे पनिका : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार प्रादेशिक सेना के जवानों की पेंशन बढ़ाने के एक प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी वृद्धि करने का विचार है और इस वृद्धि से कुल कितने जवानों को लाभ होगा ;

(ग) क्या सरकार उन्हें अन्य सुविधायें देने के बारे में भी विचार कर रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Certain benefits have recently been announced for Territorial Army Jawans as given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

The following benefits have recently been announced for Territorial Army Jawans :—

(1) In respect of such of those Territorial Army Jawans who had completed 15 years or more of continuous embodied service and had become non-effective on or before 31st March, 1982, service pension, death-cum-retirement gratuity and ordinary family pension have been sanctioned as applicable to the regular Army personnel except that the weightage element allowed to regular Army personnel has not been made admissible. In respect of Territorial Army Jawans who had completed 15 years or more, but less than 20 years of embodied service with breaks and had become non-effective on or before 31st March, 1982, service pension, death-cum-retirement gratuity and ordinary family pension have been sanctioned without the weightage element allowed for regular Army personnel and with a further token cut of 5% in the pension. Where the aggregate embodied service has been 20 years or more, the token cut of 5% has been ordered to be waived. Both these orders have been issued in the nature of one time exception to the general rule that Territorial Army service is not pensionable.

(2) A cadre review has been carried out for non-departmental units of the Territorial Army. As a result, the avenues for promotion for Territorial Army Jawans have been substantially stepped up.

(3) Refreshment Allowance, admissible to Territorial Army personnel of Urban TA Units has been ordered to be enhanced from Rs. 1/- to Rs. 3/- per parade of four hours duration.

(4) The Conveyance for the Jawans of Urban TA Units has been ordered to be doubled from 8 paise to 16 paise per kilometer.

(5) The following categories of Territorial Army personnel have been ordered to be granted the status of Ex-Servicemen :—

- (a) Pension holders for continuous embodied service.
- (b) Disabled Territorial Army personnel with disability attributable to Military Service.
- (c) Family Pension holders.
- (d) Gallantry Award winners.

(6) The amount of annual bounty, admissible to NCOs/Other Ranks of Urban Territorial Army Units for regular attendance of parades etc. has been doubled from Rs. 50/- per annum to Rs. 100/- per annum. Territorial Army NCOs/Other Ranks of Provincial Units, to who bounty was not admissible previously, have been made eligible for this benefit.

7. Besides the above, several other measures for the benefit of Territorial Army personnel have recently been recommended by the Territorial Army Committee, 1982. Government have not yet taken final decisions on these. It will be premature to disclose the details.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Though the Minister has given a negative answer to my question parts (a) and (b), I am thankful to him that he has announced so many benefits for the Territorial Army Jawans recently. But I want to remind him that recently while he was addressing the Territorial Army Jawans on the grounds of Redfort, he categorically assured them that he was going to give pension to them ; but he has not given it. Not only this, he had announced that he will give gratuity of Rs. 15,000-20,000. Moreover, he also assured them that he was going to give gratuity to those who draw a salary of Rs. 1500/-. I want to know from the Minister whether he is going to declare this service as a pensionable service.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I had announced a number of concessions

during the army day. The concessions are that for the people who have completed 15 years or more of continuous embodied service, they will become eligible for pension.

Also, I have said that in the case of those who have put in between 15 and 20 years, but non-continuous service, they will also get pension. All these are given in the statement. Once the announcement has been made it will be implemented. There is no question of our going back on any of these things. Death-cum-retirement gratuity will be given. The pension will be given as mentioned in the statement placed on the Table of the House and I do not see what doubt the hon. Member has on this matter.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : I have got no doubt. Your answer was not clear. There was one Territorial Army Committee which has recommended some more benefits to be given to the Jawans. What is the constraint in accepting those recommendations ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A Territorial Army Committee was headed by my esteemed friend Mr. Sparrow and they have made far reaching recommendations. They have said that the Territorial Army should be developed as a second line of defence and for that purpose they said that the structure should be changed, and so on. These are matters which require very careful examination. They are under examination. The decisions will be taken, but I thought that some benefits may be given in advance while the other things may be examined at some leisure.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : May I know from the hon. Minister if the strength of the Territorial Army is going to be increased ?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the recruitment be from different territories also ?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : From all over India.

MR. SPEAKER : At least enrol him first.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will answer this question first. So far as the strength is concerned, we have I am giving the information for the first time — 45,000 people in the Territorial Army and the suggestion that has been made by the Committee is that it should be increased and it should be formed as a second line of defence. Now, when a decision is taken on that principle, then the number will be adequately increased.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anantha Ramulu Mallu, Absent. Shri K. Mallanna. Thank you for being present.

बौद्ध पर्यटकों के लिए 'होटल ऑन व्हील्स'

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*63. श्री के. मालन्ना :

श्री अनन्त रामुलु मल्लू :

क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे की :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बुद्ध अनुयायियों को आकर्षित करने के लिए रेल मन्त्रालय के सहयोग से "होटल ऑन व्हील्स" में सरकार द्वारा पर्याप्त सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था की गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है और यह रेलगाड़ी कौन-कौन से बौद्ध तीर्थ स्थानों को जायेगी ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sirs. A special Air-conditioned Tourist Train named "The Great Indian Rover" has been introduced as of 3rd November, 1983 in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways and the India Tourism Development Corporation to facilitate tourists intending to visit places of Budd-

hist importance. Adequate facilities have been provided by the Government in this "hotel on wheels".

"The Great Indian Rover" has sleeping accommodation for 126 tourists with all facilities normally provided in a hotel. It also has a Restaurant Car, a Lounge, and a meditation area. The train will operate on a 5 Nights itinerary every week from Howrah to Gaya-Varanasi-Gorakhpur and back to Howrah. The tourists will be taken by ITDC's luxury coaches to Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Sarnath, Lumbini and Kushinagar.

SHRI K. MALLANNA : I congratulate the hon. Minister. He has answered all my questions. I have no supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER : There seems to be good rapport. He has not got any; you have got, Mr. Mohanty.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : As the Tourism Ministry is aware, there are many Buddhist shrines and other places of pilgrimage in Orissa. Are there any proposals to connect this train to those tourist spots, in Orissa. I particularly mention Lalitgiri and other places and also others which were famous even before the birth of Christ.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : We have just started this train and it is being operated for the first time this season on an experimental basis. On the basis of this experiment we will consider what other places can be considered for inclusion in the itinerary.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि होटल ऑन व्हील्स हावड़ा होते हुए गया जायगी। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि राजगीर जो बौद्ध भिक्षुओं का तीर्थस्थान है और विश्वभर के लोग वहाँ जाते हैं क्या उमको भी इस योजना के अन्तर्गत लिया जाएगा कि यह गया के अलावा राजगीर भी जाए ?