

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: When the matter will come to the Central Government, of course it will be examined.

Indian Navy Short of Quality Officers

*528. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy is short of large number of quality officers;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that the problem has been there for long but has been felt more in the recent past;

(c) if so, the main reason for the same; and

(d) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). The overall quality of officers of Indian Navy is high. However, there is a shortage of officers, particularly in technical branches. This has recently been accentuated because of the increased requirements of technical infrastructure and increased opportunities of employment in other sectors. Wider publicity is to be given to attract a large number of suitable candidates in the Navy. A proposal to introduce Short Service Commission in the technical branches is also under consideration of Government.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I also have a high opinion about our armed forces and our personnel. But it is reported in a reputed newspaper that the army is short of officers. One responsible officer, Lt. Gen. Chhibber was speaking to newsmen at Bangalore and he said, there is shortage of quality officers in the army. He further added that it is due to the fact that intelligent young men choose lucrative professions instead of joining the armed forces. In view of this, I want to know whether any attractive incen-

tives would be given to the young and intelligent people to join the armed forces and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The newspaper report referred to by the hon. member mentions something about the army position and not the Navy position. The main question relates to the navy. But I will try to answer that question also. At present, as far as the navy is concerned, we require more officers and we are trying to get more officers. As far as the army is concerned, young persons prefer to join the navy first then the air force and their third preference is army. But we have provided so many facilities and we are doing so many things which are attracting young persons today. For instance, we have created promotional avenues. We are giving better facilities in other respects also, which are attracting young persons to our armed forces.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: When compared to our population and our long coastline, the total strength of our armed forces is very small, particularly in the navy. In view of this I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory military training to young and intelligent people who are under 25 years of age and if so, details thereof.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is an honourable profession in which the question of money or such material things are less important. Those who are interested in this honourable profession, in bravery and gallantry, attach more importance to this. But we do have certain organisations which do give training. For instance, NCC is there. Young students join the NCC, get training and come there. After that we have facilities provided in the National Defence Academy and other educational institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.