

2535

2536

LOK SABHA

Saturday, 11th December, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(No Questions: Part I not published)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RETRENCHMENT OF SEPOY CLERKS OF ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri K. A. Damodara Menon regarding—

“The situation arising out of the Government's serving discharge notice on 4,000 sepoy clerks of Army Ordnance Corps who have completed services ranging from six to seven years against the Government's guarantee of service for fifteen years.”

When was this order issued? How long ago?

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): This order was served two days ago.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On how many of them?

Shri Damodara Menon: I understand about 4,000 are to be discharged.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Later on. But, so far what has been done?

560 LSD.

Shri Damodara Menon: So far notices have been issued and no ground is stated. I understand it is a general retrenchment. I got only a telegram. As a matter of fact, as I said in the adjournment motion, there has been a guarantee by the Government that these people will be entertained in service for 15 years. Now, as against that guarantee, these people are going to be retrenched.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us hear the hon. Minister.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, regarding this discharge, the general position is that the sepoys are engaged for an initial period of nine years and then they are further liable to serve for another six years in the reserve, or, in certain cases, for eight years and seven years, thus making a total of fifteen years. It includes a reserve service. So far as these are concerned, I should like to collect some more information about it before I say anything further on it. But, I should like to say, that, as the House is aware, the post-war strength of the Indian Army is going to be something very much less than what it was during the war because of the emergency and, therefore, certain people will have to go.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even before the period of fifteen years?

Sardar Majithia: As I said, it may be so; they were initially engaged for eight or nine years for the coloured service followed by a reserve.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same people will be taken over for reserve, in all making 15 years?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are these people discharged before the fifteenth year?

Sardar Majithia: As I said, they were initially engaged for eight or nine years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree, but for the other part of the contract would they be taken to the reserve?

Sardar Majithia: They are liable for reserve service.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are these people sent away even before the reserve period?

Sardar Majithia: In the reserve period they do not serve; they go back home and they are given a retaining allowance and they are called upon to have a refresher training for about a month or so in a year and so on. As I said, I would like to get some more details about it before I say anything on it.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I suggest that in view of what the hon. Minister has said viz., that he wants time to gather information, you may postpone the consideration of this adjournment motion.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Will there be an assurance from the hon. Minister that this retrenchment will not take place? Now, the Minister said that he will have to collect more information about it. Will he give an assurance to the House that during this time the retrenchment will not take place?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will collect the information before the session is over, I am sure, and will not put it off till the next session. It seems to be a part of the original contract that they will be on active service for eight or nine years and for the balance of the period of fifteen years they will be on the reserve getting some

retaining allowance and so on. Therefore, if it is so, in the usual course, I do not see how this adjournment motion arises. However, as the hon. Minister says that he will gather facts, I do not see any urgency and therefore, so far as the adjournment motion is concerned, I am not allowing it but I would request the hon. Minister, as early as possible, to give a statement to the House after collecting all the necessary data. If, arising out of that statement, any further discussion is necessary, hon. Members are aware that there is the half an hour, one hour or two hours discussion and they can invoke the aid of any one of these rules.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I suggest before you give a ruling that the adjournment motion is disallowed that we may await the information that the hon. Minister will give us?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well. When is it likely?

Sardar Majithia: I can do it on Monday; I can come out with the statement on Monday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well. Then, this will stand over till Monday. At present, I don't think there is any urgency about it. Anyhow, let it stand over. //

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ALLOCATION OF TIME re: REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the House that the Business Advisory Committee met on the 8th and 10th December, 1954 and agreed to allocate 6 hours for the disposal of the Resolution regarding the Report of the Railway Convention Committee.

I shall now ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move a formal motion for approval of this Report by the House.