

Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, 25th March, 1955.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I.)

12-30 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the Demands in respect of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and I shall call upon the hon. Minister to reply. I think he will take about half an hour or so.

After that the House will take up the Demands in respect of the Ministry of Defence and thereafter the Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, which is more or less a formal business.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I suggest that the Bill may be taken up at 2-30 when the non-official business starts, because it is more or less non-official as it concerns all the Members.

Mr. Speaker: It is an official Bill, no doubt—though it may benefit the non-official Members of Parliament. Anyhow, I shall take it up at 2-30. That does not matter.

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1955-56**

DEMANDS *re* MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): A large num-

ber of hon. Members of this House, who took part yesterday in the debate on the Demands of this ministry paid, and rightly paid, a warm tribute to the late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. As his successor in office there would be few persons who are in a better position to appreciate the magnitude of his work than myself. It was on account of his bold and imaginative policy that there is stability on the food front today. I join in the chorus of tribute paid by the Members of this House to Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai.

I am grateful to the Members of this House for their friendly approach and the cordial manner in which they have dealt with these Demands. Many of the proposals made have been constructive. My colleague Dr. P. S. Deshmukh has answered most of the points raised. None-the-less I take this opportunity of assuring the hon. Members that the suggestions made by them will be carefully considered by the Ministry and we shall do our utmost to act up to them.

There was one subject, and a very important one, to which reference was made practically by every speaker yesterday, with which I propose to deal. It is the all important question of stabilisation of the prices of agricultural products. It has caused a large amount of anxiety both inside the House and outside and I fully share that anxiety. In fact, it has been my earnest effort to give as much support to the prices as is possible under the circumstances. But I would earnestly request the hon. Members to approach this very important problem in a dispassionate

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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manner. I want to give the magnitude of the fall in prices of food-grains, with which I propose to deal first.

According to the Wholesale Price Index in cereals the aggregate fall has been 21 per cent. As regards specific foodgrains, during the past year rice has fallen by 18 per cent., wheat by 13 per cent., *jowar* by 41 per cent., *bajra* by 21 per cent. If this fall in prices had been correspondingly accompanied.....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): What about gram?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not included it here, but I will come to gram later on. If this fall in prices had been correspondingly accompanied by a fall in the prices of the manufactured goods which the peasants normally consume, there would not have been much cause for anxiety. But not only the prices of the manufactured goods which the peasant consumes have not gone down, but in some cases they have gone up.

I am grateful to my colleague, the Finance Minister, who ultimately decided to drop the proposal to increase the excise duty on coarse and medium cloth which is generally consumed by the peasant. The fact that the Government as a whole is very anxious about this fall in prices would also be apparent from the concessions which my colleague the Railway Minister has given on the movement of food-grains and of fertilizers.

Most of the Members when they spoke yesterday on the stabilisation of prices more or less thought that the Government should enter the market and make purchases on a large scale. An hon. Member of this House, Sardar Lal Singh, referred to what has been done in the United States and he suggested that we should follow the policy of stabilisation more or less on the lines of what has been done in the United States.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair.]

I submit that the conditions of India are very different from those of the United States. What is good for them is not necessarily good or possible for us. We have to find our own remedies.

I may refer to a few features which distinguish our conditions from those of the United States. The total national income of the United States is about 357 billion dollars. As against that, the value of farm produce in the United States is 21.3 billion dollars. That is, of the total national income the income from the agricultural sector constitutes only 6 per cent. Their total annual budget is 71.6 billion dollars. Thus the total farm produce is only 30 per cent. of their budget. Taking the comparative figures in India, our annual national income is a little less than Rs. 10,000 crores out of which nearly Rs. 5,000 crores is the income from farm produce. In other words the income from the agricultural sector constitutes about 50 per cent. of the total national income and it is 1,100 per cent. of our annual budget. It is apparent from these figures that any scheme of price stabilisation on the lines of the United States will have to be primarily financed or at least substantially financed by the agricultural sector and that would be no remedy. In connection with a recent deal which we were negotiating with the U. S. A. about the import of certain farm produce, we found that its value in the registers of the C.C.C. was 40 million dollars but the market value had fallen to 24 million dollars. That is, there had been a loss of no less than 16 million dollars which was the difference between the book-value and the market value. Assuming that this is any indication, are we in a position to bear these losses? That is one aspect of it.

The second thing which distinguishes our agricultural economy from that of the United States is that the agricultural economy of the United

States is one essentially of surpluses. In our case, at best, it is an economy of matching. May be that we have some excess of production in one or another kind of foodgrains and deficit in some others. But, taking the picture as a whole, we have by no means a surplus economy and that too on the basis of a low consumption of about 1,600 to 1,700 calories per capita in India. The minimum calories needed to keep a man in full health are 2,800 calories. Therefore, our diet is deficient in essential elements. An important thing before the country is to make up this deficiency in the food. Therefore, for a long time to come, we have scope not only for greater consumption but for consumption of a better quality food. What really is lacking today is the purchasing power of the people. The people have not got the wherewithal to pay for sufficient and good food. Hon. Members would be aware that the Finance Minister has provided for a deficit budget of more than Rs. 300 crores during the next year. During the Second Five Year Plan, our expenditure on development schemes is going to be, I believe, of the tune of Rs. 1,000 crores per year. The deficit financing which we may have to undertake in the future as also the money which we shall have to spend on the development programmes, I hope, will give the requisite purchasing power to the people and that appears to me to be the only solution of some of the ills which are a feature of our agricultural sector.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): What about the purchasing power of the peasant?

Shri A. P. Jain: I am coming to that.

In order to find a correct remedy we must analyse the causes of steep fall in the prices of agricultural products. When we shifted over from a controlled economy to a free economy, it was anticipated that there will be a certain amount of decline in the prices of agricultural produce and

that should be welcome. But, the unfortunate feature has been that the decline has been uneven and more steep than what it should have been. It is a well known fact that when the prices have a tendency to fall, people have no more incentive to build up reserves. Even the accumulated reserves come into the market. With the falling of prices, quite big reserves which had been built up by peasants and middlemen for sale in the open market and black market during the control days have come into the market and this has unhinged the market conditions. During the last 10 or 12 years of control, the market has been upset. Articles which we used to export before the controls have ceased to be exported during this time. The case of pulses is relevant here. We were exporting a substantial quantity of pulses and gram. But, during the 10 years of control, there were no such exports and we have been completely cut off from our foreign markets. Even internally, during the period of control, the market was considerably upset. You have also to bear in mind that the integration of the princely States with what were formerly British provinces has brought in certain new factors. I have tried to make a study of the proverbially low bowels of depression in the States where, with backward economy, they had more or less barter economy. In the olden days nobody cared about the low prices then. There was also very little of surplus. In this democratic regime we have become conscious and these areas have attracted our attention. These are some of the things which we have to bear in mind in order to find a solution.

The House should be aware that in the month of December, Government announced a policy of making selective purchases of certain coarse foodgrains. The basis of that policy was to help the peasant. It was not our intention to ensure the losses of the trade. Therefore, we decided that wherever the prices of the coarse

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grains went down unduly low, Government would start purchasing direct from the peasant. The prices announced were: Jawar Rs. 5-8-0. Maize Rs. 5-8-0, and Bajra Rs. 6-0-0. Accordingly we issued instructions to the State Governments specifying certain markets where they could make purchases if the prices went below those figures. We further requested the State Governments to send us information about any other markets where the prices had gone below those figures, so that we might authorise them to make purchases.

Shri S. S. More: Did you take into consideration the cost of production when you fixed these prices?

Shri A. P. Jain: Well, we took everything into consideration—our capacity, the normal relationship between the price of wheat and coarse grains, and what would be the basic cost of production. All these we took into consideration. We also authorised the State Governments to send us a list of those *mandis* where they thought that there was a case for purchases. Accordingly we have authorised them and some purchases have been made, but I must confess that when we took the decision, much of the coarse grain had already entered the market and the peasant could not fully benefit from our decision. Recently, hon. Members will remember, I made an announcement in this House that Government have decided to make purchase of wheat in specified *mandis* where the price of wheat shows a tendency to go below Rs. 10 per maund. That announcement has had a healthy effect. The House will also remember that my predecessor, Shri Kidwai, made a similar announcement in the month of June last and it had immediate effect. This year we have been more cautious and we have made this announcement well in advance of the arrival of the crop in the market. I am making arrangements in different markets for the purchases and I do hope that this measure will ensure a minimum price of Rs. 10 to a grower of wheat.

I made mention of certain areas which have always been suffering from the malady of low prices and those areas are mostly situated in what were formerly princely States. We have given a lot of thought to that—the Planning Commission, the Finance Ministry and my Ministry—and we have come to the conclusion that the proper way to deal in those areas would be to induct more of purchasing power. Where we find that there are difficulties of transport, we build roads and help the development of transport. Otherwise also we undertake developmental works which would provide employment to the people and at the same time enable them to spend more on food.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the conditions prevailing in Madhya Pradesh. In Hoshangabad wheat is selling at the rate of Rs. 12-8-0, in Wun in Yeotmal District, it is selling at Rs. 10-4-0; on the other hand, in Wardha, wheat is selling at Rs. 16-6-0, in Balaghat at Rs. 17-8-0 and in Kondagaon at Rs. 21-0-0. I requested the State Food Minister to come here and discuss with me the question of this disparity. We both came to the conclusion that this is due to the want of transport and proper marketing facilities. That is one way in which we are trying to deal with the problem of certain backward areas.

The House would also be aware that there are seasonal fluctuations. In June last price of wheat went down in certain areas below Rs. 10 and in December the average price was between Rs. 14 and Rs. 15. In fact, it has been an unfortunate feature of the agricultural economy in India that the peasant sells when the rates are the lowest and he buys when the rates are the highest. This has been a long-standing problem, and I am glad to say today that we have after all decided to deal with this problem in an effective manner.

The House would be aware that the Reserve Bank appointed a committee for conducting a survey of rural credit. The report of that committee has been under the consideration of the Reserve Bank of India and of the various Ministries. It is a comprehensive report which deals with co-operative rural credit, co-operative marketing, co-operative processing and co-operative warehousing. The broad features of the report are that the Reserve Bank and the State Governments will be responsible for providing rural credit and a radical change is being made in the provisions of rural credit. Hitherto, rural credit was provided more or less on the security of land, so that the middle and the smaller peasant was kept out of it. Henceforth it is proposed in that report that the rural credit would be provided on the security of the crop. Crop survey would be done and the possible estimates of the yield made. A certain percentage of that estimate would be advanced to the peasant. Thereby, not only the bigger peasant, but the smaller and the middle peasants would also benefit. The marketing of this produce will have to be done through the co-operative credit society and this produce will be stored in the warehouse. It is proposed to set up a chain of warehouses at markets of all-India importance, State importance and smaller markets where the peasant normally sells his foodgrains. It will be open to the peasant to deposit his foodgrain in the warehouse, to get a receipt of the warehouse, and he can raise credit on it so that the main difficulty which arises in the matter of prices today will I hope be very largely obviated by this very sensible scheme which the Rural Credit Survey Committee has proposed.

The House would be aware that the first decision namely to take over the control of the Imperial Bank with a view to convert it into the State Bank of India has already been announced in the House, and details are being worked out. I hope the neces-

sary legislation will be introduced during this session.

The co-operative marketing, processing and warehousing are being examined in my Ministry and we hope to come out with the full and detailed scheme before the House in the near future.

These are some of the things which we have done in order to give support to the food prices and to equalise the inequalities both in point of time and in point of space. I will sum them up again. We have started purchasing at what might be called the floor prices in specified markets direct from the grower. We have decided to develop means of transport in regions where they do not exist, or where they are bad. We have also decided to develop marketing in areas where it does not exist. In order to abviate the inequalities in point of time, we propose to implement the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee with all the speed, and to build a chain of warehouses.

Yet another method by which we have given support, and in which we have succeeded to a certain extent, is to encourage export. I will take the case of ground-nut prices which practically governs the prices of other oilseeds. In 1952-53, the crop failed, and the prices went up. Export of ground-nut was banned in June 1953, and it continued to be banned for almost a year. In 1953-54 the crop was better, and the ban was removed; the prices began to go down, but when exports were allowed, they firmed up a little. With the prospects of a good crop in 1955, the prices again showed a tendency to go down. Now, the corrective action which we took was on the following lines. We allowed an export quota of 1,24,000 tons of ground-nut oil, and 20,000 tons of hand-picked special ground-nuts. We also reduced the export duty from Rs. 350 per ton to Rs. 100 per ton. With regard to the quota, which was formerly being issued only to the established shippers, we gave the same facilities to the crushers also. The

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quota was allowed to be exported from all the ports instead of selected ports. The result of all that has been that the price of ground-nut has firm-ed up from Rs. 30-10-0 in January to Rs. 34-14-0 in February, and to Rs. 33-13-0 in March, i. e., about Rs. 920 per ton in March.

Now, I come to the case of another important commodity, the pulses. During the last ten years there had been no export of pulses. A small export of pulses was allowed towards the end of June 1954. But that was not enough to give support to the prices. After June 1954, we allowed a quota of export of 15,000 tons, and recently we have allowed another quota of 50,000 tons of export. Gram, about which a question was put to me, has now been put on the list of free export. I have known, rather unofficially of course, from certain merchants that they are now negotiating the export of gram to foreign markets. We were in the past exporting a good deal of gram to the foreign markets, and I am hopeful that it will be possible for us to export a good quantity of gram this year.

I said that our foreign marketing has been rather disturbed on account of the policy of control. I have decided to send out a trade mission consisting of some of the leading traders dealing in different commodities to foreign countries, so that they may study the needs of the foreign markets and re-establish their contacts, which were broken during the period of controls.

Even in regard to the internal markets, I propose to appoint a committee which will carefully go into the wide fluctuations or variations which exist in the prices of foodgrains and other agricultural products in different markets, so that we may have an integrated picture as to the causes of these variations, and we may find a suitable remedy to remove them.

So far as the prices of products, which the agriculturist normally consumes, are concerned, we have been giving quite a bit of thought as to how to reduce those prices. I must confess that so far I have not succeeded in finding out a formula whereby we can make the articles of consumption available to the peasant more cheaply except in one case, that is, the case of fertiliser. I hope to pronounce shortly some reduction in the price of fertiliser. I have also requested some of the sister Ministries to lend us support to find out the ways in which we can devise a scheme whereby we could supply at least some of the essential articles of consumption like agricultural implements etc., to the agriculturists at lower prices.

I can assure the House that I am as much perturbed by this precipitate fall in the prices of agricultural produce as any one else.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): May I know whether the hon. Minister is doing something for cotton?

Shri A. P. Jain: For cotton? Yes. There is already a floor price of Rs. 495 per candy, and the export of short staple cotton is being encouraged, and more quota is expected to be released.

I am very anxious about this fall in prices, but I want to find out a practical solution. I would request the hon. Members of the House to give me a practical solution, a solution which may be within our capacity, and a solution which may suit our conditions.

Before I sit down, I would like to say that so far as food is concerned, our prospects are quite cheerful. We had given up the import of the coarse grains some time ago. We have no idea of importing any rice. So far as wheat is concerned, we have to import a certain quantity under commitments already made, and maybe, as a result of an overall settlement with the United States on the aid and assistance programmes we may have

to import some wheat. As regards the internal situation is concerned, I think that we are in a fairly safe position so far as foodgrains are concerned, and if we have to import any wheat, that will be only for building reserves for a possible contingency.

Shri S. N. Das (Darbhanga Central): What will be the price of the imported wheat?

Shri A. P. Jain: All these matters are under negotiation and I may inform the House that the purchase of wheat forms part of the overall policy of aid and assistance to the Government. The United States is providing aid and assistance to a substantial extent by making available the surplus agricultural produce.

Shri S. S. More: Will not the imported wheat depress further the price of wheat?

Shri A. P. Jain: Certainly not, because if we import any wheat, we will import it for building reserves, not for releasing it in the market. That too would be only under the overall consideration of aid and assistance which is a much larger question and does not relate to this particular Ministry.

As I was saying, part of the aid made available to us is in the form of the surplus farm produce in the United States of America. We take that produce, sell it here and out of the proceeds of that produce, we finance our developmental programme. So when the question of the import of any foreign produce arises it is considered in the larger perspective of certain funds being made available to us for the purpose of development projects. In any case, I think so far as food is concerned, we are in a quite satisfactory condition and I do hope that this phenomenon of erratic change in the food prices is not going to be a permanent feature. With more of money in the hands of the people and the restoration of normalcy, many of these somewhat erratic features will disappear and I

do hope things will progress satisfactorily.

Shri S. S. More: May I ask a question? The Planning Commission have already said that they will devise a machinery for the purpose of stabilising agricultural prices. May I know whether Government have any intention of devising such a machinery which can regulate the prices between the minimum fixed and the maximum?

Shri A. P. Jain: Government have no such proposal under consideration. In fact, after giving further consideration, the Planning Commission have withdrawn that scheme. They thought that it was not practical.

Sardar Lal Singh (Ferozepur-Ludhiana): While it is gratifying that Government propose to supply fertiliser and agricultural implements at subsidised rates, would not the import of wheat suppress the prices of wheat in India and would it not go against the interests of the grower and in fact of the grow-more-food campaign itself?

Shri A. P. Jain: I said only fertiliser—that I want to make clear. About agricultural implements, we are considering the question. So far as any import of wheat is concerned, I said that we would import wheat for which we have already made commitments, which we cannot escape. Secondly, if we have to import any further wheat, it will be only under the overall scheme of assistance and aid and it will not be released in the market so as to affect prices adversely.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): May I know whether Government have any policy to prevent erratic fluctuation of prices?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have explained it at length. I think he was not there.

Shri Gadgil: You have.

Shri Deogam (Chaibassa-Reserved-Sch. Tribes): May I know what steps.....

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. Some time has already been taken up by way of questions. This is not the Question Hour. I allowed only some important questions.

I shall now put to vote all the cut motions.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of the following heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demands Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 121, 122 and 123".

The motion was adopted.

[*The motion for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below:—* Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND No. 41—MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 57,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 42—FOREST

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 87,94,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the

31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND No. 43—AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,49,20,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 44—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 71,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND No. 45—MISCELLANEOUS

DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,89,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,31,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND No. 122—PURCHASES OF FOODGRAINS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 77,13,00,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Purchases of Foodgrains'."

DEMAND NO. 123—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,40,61,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMANDS re MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up discussion of the Demands for Grants Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 111 relating to the Ministry of Defence. As the House is aware, eight hours have been allotted for the Demands of this Ministry.

There are a number of cut motions to these various Demands. Hon. Members may hand over the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move at the Table within 15 minutes. I shall treat them as moved, if the Members in whose names those cut motions stand are present in the House and the motions are otherwise in order.

The time-limit for speeches will, as usual, be 15 minutes for the Members including movers of cut motions, and 20 minutes if necessary, for Leaders of Groups.

As the House will observe, some more time has been taken today by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This time has to be made up. I would therefore request the House kindly to sit after 5 P. M. to make up this amount of time.

DEMAND NO. 11—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum

necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND NO. 12—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ARMY

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,89,17,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective—Army'."

DEMAND NO. 13—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—NAVY

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,66,40,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective—Navy'."

DEMAND NO. 14—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—AIR FORCE

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,52,72,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective—Air Force'."

DEMAND NO. 15—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,97,79,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of Defence Services, Non-Effective Charges'."

**DEMAND No. 111—DEFENCE CAPITAL
OUTLAY**

Mr. Chairman: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,58,67,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1956, in respect of 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): My cut motions are Nos. 585 to 596. In moving them I beg to emphasise upon the fact that nuclear weapons have made the entire system of orthodox defence entirely obsolete. Offence or defence with "conventional weapons" in terms of the new strategy has to undergo a radical change. This is the basic factor that we have to keep in mind because defence is no longer the concern of the defence forces, however well-equipped and efficient they may be; it is more the concern of the politician at the top who will have to see that war itself is avoided because the best "Defence" in a modern war of the atomic and H-Bomb age is the avoidance of war itself.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): But we have got a politician at the top of Defence—Dr. Katju.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Before going into details, I would first congratulate Government upon taking a little more realistic approach than they were doing before in one or two matters. For instance, in the building up of a civilian defence organisation there is the Territorial Army of India, which was started in 1949. Our complaint has always been that the authorised strength is too inadequate for the requirements of a huge country like ours, and even that authorised strength, small as it was, was not being brought up to its full strength. We had only 50 per cent of the authorised strength as the actual strength. We congratulate the Territorial Army Directorate that, after all, they have brought the actual strength to the authorised strength, and today the Territorial Army as sanctioned or authorised till now is almost complete.

But I would repeat that this small size of the Territorial Army, our second line of defence, is too inadequate for the purpose today of a country of the size of India, and for the requirements of modern warfare. Then, the Territorial Army Directorate has also to be congratulated upon expanding the Auxiliary Territorial Army or the Auxiliary Territorial Force into the National Volunteer Force of five lakh trained personnel to be raised and trained within five years. We are grateful to the Prime Minister, who as Chairman of the Territorial Army Advisory Committee has given the lead in this direction; and, we should not omit also the fact that we now have the right man as the T. A. Director. After all, the Ministry seems to have picked up the right man for the right place, an Officer with energy, drive and patriotism, who has been able to build up the Territorial Army, bringing it up to the authorised strength and to conceive of a much bigger force of five lakhs, which, I repeat, is too small for the requirements of the country.

There is, of course, another factor which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and that is what we have all been urging these three years that, in the organisation of the Defence Services, the civilians and the civilian institutions have to be taken into co-ordination. You have decided to build up a National Volunteer Force but you will not be able to build it up on the right lines, nor provide for continuity during the remaining eleven months in the year unless you associate the semi-military organisations of civilians like the National Rifle Associations, the Scouts Association, the Physical Culture Organisations and various other similar units which we have throughout the country based upon voluntary efforts of a few private individuals and enthusiasts. You will have to take them into confidence and take their co-operation to build up this nation-wide Force. One or two months' training, I submit, are not sufficient; there must be continuity of trainings and organization.

The Territorial Army Directorate, for which there is an allotment of Rs. 35 lakhs under the sub-head, NVF—thanks for it—must be given some larger allotment and through it a centralised organisation for giving training, uniformity and co-ordination may be ensured for all the different organisations. I spoke on the subject in this House when the present Defence Minister was the Home Minister and I suggested the building up of a Civil Defence Organisation throughout the country, if not for fighting purposes, at least for allaying panic in times of trouble, for maintaining peace and order, for controlling the civilian; and I suggested that there should be a sort of Civil Defence Organisation by co-ordinating the non-official activities and subsidising their clubs and associations. I was thinking that the Government would accept it. But, even this time, we find, in the allotment, there is nothing for a real Civil Defence Organisation; there is mention of a Civil Defence expenditure and a small allotment of about a lakh of rupees intended to cover the ravages done by enemy bombing and the like, but there appears to be no intention of building a Civil Defence organization. Therefore, I would suggest, now that the hon. Minister has taken over the Defence portfolio—which, I feel, is a much bigger one, and through which he can render greater service to the country—I hope he will take this better opportunity to build up a civilian organisation by co-ordinating the civilian population through the Territorial Army Directorate. I, a Member of the Opposition, can assert that today the Territorial Army Directorate has got the right personnel which can deliver the goods. Why not you take advantage of it and build up through this organisation a nationwide organisation consisting of members of various private voluntary organisations who have been marking time, carrying on without any help from the Government, in building up the youth, training and disciplining them? The hon. Minister might not have been able to do it as Home Minister under

"Civil Defence"; he can now do it under the expanded co-ordinating Central Territorial Army Directorate.

I would also point out that till now there had been a sort of feeling in our country that the military organisation should not be contaminated by civilians or civilian organisations. I would here inform the hon. Minister, that in other countries, particularly England, you have mostly civilians, —the County Councils—who run the Territorial Army. There they run the training courses and the camps; of course, they are helped by military personnel and with equipment from the War Office. It is they who run it, the civilians representing the various spheres of national life because it is only civilians who can build up civilian organisations. There also the Territorial Army Organisation owes its inception to a non-military man, a civilian, Lord Haldane who came from the Bar and organised the Territorial Army of U.K. The Territorial Army Act was passed under his lead and the County Councils were built up and organised by him. I hope that our Defence Minister, who also happens to be an eminent lawyer, will give the lead that Lord Haldane, gave the United Kingdom. He had, at a later stage in his life, stepped from civilian activities, from the Bar, into the War Secretary's place and organized the civilian forces. I hope our lawyer Defence Minister, who is also from the Bar, will do likewise.

I congratulate the Defence Ministry on another side of its activity. As I stated at the very outset, the concept of warfare has changed, the methods have changed from fighting forces to scientific research atomic energy and hydrogen bombs, guided missiles and nuclear weapons for offence and defence. That change, I emphasise, necessitates the advance of science research and our Defence Ministry must be congratulated on having a small nucleus organisation of 50 scientists to build up the Defence Science Organisation of India. Here again, it is more a question of personality because I would state here and now that it is due to the sacrificing spirit of

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one scientist that you have present Defence Science Organisation, a professor and eminent scientist from the Delhi University, who when he came over to the Defence service temporarily a couple of years ago, to build up the Defence Science Organisation, offered to serve for the same amount that he was getting in the Delhi University. Even after he left our Organisation for his University research work, he continues as Honorary Adviser without drawing any salary and he is serving the cause of Defence Science without any remuneration. I would like to convey my congratulations to that gentleman as well as to the Defence Ministry for having built up the nucleus of a Defence Science Organisation, however small it may be. There are some details that have to be attended to and therefore I will refer to them briefly.

Firstly, I have to point out that in a huge country like ours where we are spending hundreds of crores for various items and where we are spending hundreds of crores for conventional Defence, where the national requirements as well as defence requirements call for scientific study and scientific research, this small nucleus of 50 persons is not at all enough; we must have a much bigger and expanded organisation. I am told that there is provision for 150 men; we have to ascertain why that provision is not being utilised, why we are not able to have a full complement and are managing with only 50 men. It will be very interesting to learn that for 1954-55, under the head Defence Science Organisation, the grant was Rs. 10½ lakhs but we could spend only Rs. 8.74 lakhs and this year the grant is 11.02 lakhs. This, I respectfully submit, is too small and too inadequate for the requirements of a country like ours at a time like the present one.

The Defence Science Organization has to concern itself with atomic research and in evolving some sort of defence against atomic bombardment. There is another point also: The Defence Science Organisation is no

doubt co-related with the Technical Development Establishment to a small extent. But, I would suggest that there should be a fuller co-ordination between the Technical Development Establishment, which is concerned with the development and inspection on our production side, and this Defence Science Organisation.

I may also point out another factor, namely that in order to enthuse them for the work, the scientists have to be treated on an equal level with the military officers. It is true that the pay of scientists is not much less than the paltry pay of professors, educationists and research workers in Universities and other institutions. But, it is too small when compared with the corresponding officer of the Army. In respect of amenities, an Army Officer, a Lieutenant gets a first class pass whereas a scientist of the Defence Science Organisation serving at the same place gets only a second class pass even though he is a senior doctor, a specialist in some subject unless he gets a pay of over Rs. 800.

Some of these minor things could very easily be attended to; and thus make the scientists work more enthusiastically. I do not for a moment like to lower the importance of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. They have their own place in spite of the atomic weapons; in spite of the advent of nuclear weapons, the conventional army and the old orthodox Navy and Air Force have got their own important place in warfare. I therefore, appeal to the three services to look at it from this point of view: in order to bring themselves up to present day requirements, they have all to give due importance to the scientific branch of the defence organisation, and themselves take to scientific research in their own specialised branches.

Another important matter on which I lay emphasis is that there should be co-ordination of defence with the various other national activities. Your defence organisation has today to co-ordinate itself with the various Ministries for various purposes and I

hope the Minister of Defence or the Minister of Defence Organisation will do something to co-ordinate the activities of the Defence Ministry with the other Ministries and the nation building activities that are going on in the country.

For instance, we have a number of ordnance factories, about twenty of them, in addition to the H.A.L. and the Bharat Electronics: the activities of all these have to be co-ordinated in order to ensure full production. You have to see that the production in the ordnance factories is maximised. We are told that huge production is going on. But let me give an instance which is very much within the knowledge of many of our hon. friends in this House. For instance, the House will remember that last year the hon. Tyagiji promised us here that a number of 22 rifles and ammunition would be given over to police stations in the country. Anybody could go pay three rupees and have training in fire arms. We were told that ammunition would be supplied at one anna per round. That was because at that time the ammunition that we supplied was from the surplus of the stock imported from foreign countries. After paying the profits of the manufacturer and exporter in U.K., 64 per cent of the price as customs and 22 per cent as transit charges, Tyagiji could give us ammunition at Rs. 6¼ per hundred.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea cum Santal Parganas): Did you take him seriously?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: We did take it seriously; he also meant it seriously. I am sure Tyagiji meant it seriously.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): Do you think I am not prepared to take even a rifle seriously?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I would like not to take up any more time on this from the time allotted to me.

Shri Namblar: You must take Tyagiji seriously.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I do not impugn that. I can say that Tyagiji was serious

when he made the offer. As a matter of fact, at that time after paying profits of manufacturers and exporters, the custom duties and the transit charges, the ammunition imported from abroad was actually being sold for Rs. 6¼ per hundred.

We are now getting supplies from our own ordnance factories, and without paying profits to anybody or customs duties, without paying any transit charges, the price has gone up to Rs. 16½. We have been told time and again by the hon. Ministers on the other side that we are producing so much and that our ordnance factories have now been switched over to civilian use. The whole snag is here. Your cost of production is far far higher than in trade. That is because your overheads are very heavy. I will come to the question of overhead charges very soon.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the price in England?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: The price charged by these countries is less than Rs. 3. Adding the customs duties profits of middlemen, and the transit charges, it comes here at Rs. 6¼ or so. But the price of the ammunition produced by our ordnance factories has gone up to Rs. 16½ on account of the heavy overhead charges. I have written several notes to the hon. Minister on this subject: as to how the working of these 22 ordnance factories could be improved, how their production could be maximised and as to how the work is being sabotage by the wrong type of men. The hon. Minister has assured me that he will have a personal discussion with me: I hope I will be able to convince him that a lot of things can be done.

I am told that Sardar Baldev Singh's Committee has made some recommendations. That Committee's report has been treated as a confidential document and shelved somewhere. Apart from that there are one or two instances where I can point out why our overhead charges are very heavy and how the cost of production in our ordnance factories becomes prohibitive. An Irrigation Superm-

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tending Civilian Engineer from the CWINC is at the head of this large organisation. We would like to know his special qualifications for this post. With this Irrigation Engineer at the top and his Deputies and Assistants, British officers who are marking time to go either to U.K. or Pakistan. Some ordnance officers have left our service and taken up posts in Pakistan. And what is happening on our side? The seniormost Indian officer in Ordnance factories, a chief Superintendent, was allowed either to retire or go out of service prematurely. Some people say that he was forced to; some others say he could not get on with the Irrigation Engineer and high-ranking British officers at the top. The only Indian officer, who by sheer merit, had during the British regime gone up to the rank of a Superintendent, had to go from service prematurely while we are giving extension after extension to foreigners some of whom may be thinking of joining other Governments as soon as they leave our service.

Similarly, on the technical side there was a senior officer who was the Director of Technical Development, a Brigadier who had foreign training in ordnance. About a year ago he was given the quarter sheet and sent back. This is how your Ordnance Organisation is working. I will not go into details. I have given a seventy page note to the hon. Minister. I hope I will have an opportunity of a discussion with him. Our strategic plans which may be in the knowledge of British officers are confidential so far as the Parliament and Senior Officers of other Ministries are concerned.

There are an equal number of ordnance depots where huge dumps of ordnance stores are lying—large boxes un-opened. You do not know how much valuable material there is in those ordnance depots, and still you are producing or purchasing things. The question is, when you have got

thousands of boxes un-opened, how do you know what material you don't have before you place indents on factories or other countries for crores and crores of worth of ordnance stores? These ordnance depots are mines of wealth. They consist of things which the Britishers and Americans left: book value some thousands of crores; actual value much more than that. In one ordnance depot itself, the book-value of the materials is about Rs. 619 crores, and the actual value is more than double that. There are also stores manufactured in our factories or purchased from the trade in India and outside. They are all very valuable materials. But unfortunately they are all in huge dumps; no covered space, no hard standing ground, no proper storage or preservation, no proper records and so on. Huge dumps are there; worth hundreds and thousands of crores. Very often many of these items are declared to disposals. What is going to the disposals? Most probably very valuable material, things which you could utilise in the various ordnance factories are going there, because you have no proper identification of stores or planning for indents. Therefore I suggest that in regard to these ordnance factories and depots there must be some unified approach. The production side, storage side, distribution side and indenting side with respect to the Army, Navy and the Air Force, all these must be co-ordinated and it must be ensured that the valuable stores worth hundreds and thousands of crores are utilised in the national interest.

An example of the approach of the Ministry: You had 1,200 civilian officers in ordnance depots during the war. You have reduced the number to 400 now. Out of the four hundred, three hundred have, no security of service in spite of 10 to 15 years' experience. Because there is going to be a permanent cadre of 104 or 106 men. After all, preservation of stores, ordnance etc., this is a thing which is not a military man's job but a civil-

lian's. The same applies to non-gazetted employees in the ordnance services.

Mr. Chairman: He has already taken twenty-five minutes. In the heat of the argument he does not realise what amount of time he has taken.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Because we are dealing with half of our national Budget and it is a very important subject. So I thought I would have a few minutes more.

So I want a sort of co-ordination of all these. I suggest also that before you decide anything to be surplus you must give an opportunity to every Department. You are doing so just before declaring it as surplus and after the stores are wasted for eight years. Whatever materials you have, there is no objection why all the three Services should not know what stock you have. I have myself seen things which probably the Navy and the Air Force do not know, in particular depots. That shows that if they had information they would have required it and the things would have been distributed long ago throughout the country. But there is not that co-ordinated approach. Nor do you permit scientific or engineering departments and others from the very beginning to have a look at the stores. They are all government departments.

I am grateful that this year the activities of the Defence Ministry have not been treated as confidential. Heretofore we used to be given copies of these reports with a big underlining "Secret" or "Confidential". I am at least glad that for the first time the Ministry has thought that their activities need not be confidential. As far as the details of expenditure are concerned I would point out that in U.K. and other countries they are printing three separate reports—Army Expenditure, Navy Expenditure and Air Force Expenditure—where you will find all the items of expenditure. After all there is no reason why everything should be confidential from the other departments. Why

should your defence planning not be co-ordinated with the Planning Department? Why should your planning for teachers and P. T. Instructors not be co-ordinated with the Education Department? Why should not your pursuit of atomic energy and other requirements be co-ordinated with the Natural Resources and Scientific Research Department? Why not our ship building, marine training and harbour defence be correlated with Transport Ministry. Similarly in every department there is scope for co-ordination of Defence with all other departments and co-ordination with the entire national life in each and every sphere of activity.

Then, Sir, there is only one more point before I close...

Mr. Chairman: I am very sorry to interfere...

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Only one very important point...

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. When I am speaking the hon. Member should stop and hear me.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I have no objection.

Mr. Chairman: Where is the question of objection? The hon. Member has already taken thirty minutes, and now he wants to touch a new point. He will naturally take another five minutes on it. After all there are many Members anxious to speak. I have to look to every Member's desire to speak, though I appreciate that the hon. Member might be making an important speech.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Then I close with this.

Dr. S. N. Sinha (Saran East): So far as the problems of our defences are concerned, I feel, the hon. Member who has just spoken, got himself completely bogged up in the lake of confusion with all his ammunition, civilian army, pay and allowances and whatever other things he had in his mind.

It was an agreeable surprise this year to go through the brief statement of the activities of the Ministry. The picture which we gain today through

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a proper study of these documents is very exhilarating; I can put it this way that our Armed Forces are in their best form, hale and hearty and in good health. I would like to drink for their health here, but Parliament is a very dry place and I am also afraid of friends like Shri Dabhi.

If the Father of the Nation were alive today he would have been himself very glad about the progress which our Armed Forces have made in these couple of years and also given his best blessings. Here is enough material to drive away any gloomy outlook, and if you study it properly you can profit a good deal from it. I will not entangle myself in petty matters of detail and matters of minor and secondary importance which we actually should not deal here.

But matters like the formation of the National Volunteer Force, the opening of the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla, development in defence industries, the proper functioning of our Laboratories, the manner in which the Air Force and the Navy has been developed, indeed all these reports are very encouraging.

The most remarkable thing is that all these achievements have been made without any increase in the Defence Budget. The other day the Prime Minister told us that a saving has been made of about Rs. 6 crores. It is a very big amount. If you calculate it even on the basis of 4 per cent, you will find that it is a saving on a sum of about Rs. 150 or 160 crores of capital. But by further enquiries I have come to know that this is a saving only in the recurring expenses. There is another saving also, perhaps about Rs. 4 crores, in the initial expenses. This is a very appreciable achievement. Without decreasing the efficiency of the Armed Forces this economy has been made. No doubt the lion's share for the economy, as the Prime Minister put it, goes to Shri Tyagi, the

Minister of Defence Organisation. But here I would like to say.....

Shri Tyagi: It would not be very fair and honest on my part to usurp all credit for these savings effected in Defence during the year. The credit is largely shared by my other colleagues and officers of the Finance and Defence Ministries and those of the three Services in the Armed Forces.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: No interruptions please. I was myself going to say that while giving credit to Shri Tyagi we must not forget the officers who have co-operated and who have worked in a patriotic spirit and done this job; and perhaps they will be promoted. I would put it this way.

If you consider the present Defence expenditure in the background of the vastness of our country, the responsibilities which we put and the assignments which we give to the Armed Forces of our country, the amount is a very meagre one. There are people in our country who say, "What for is it? We do not need any Army, Navy or Air Force, because there is no attack going to be made on us and we are encircled by friendly powers." This argument fails to take into account two basic things. One is that the simple existence of a very good Armed Force stands as a challenge to any aggressor.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): You do not believe in disarmament?

Dr. S. N. Sinha: Let me finish this point, and then I will talk to you. The first thing is that Armed Forces ensure national security. It is the basic A, B, C, of the problem of defence. Then the second point is that the Defence Forces maintain a proper atmosphere and condition in the country which drives away the danger of war. During peace-time also, the armed forces are not idle. They play a great role in the national life of our country. They are constantly under training and perhaps they fare much better so far as the

utility of a citizen is concerned, even as civilians. If you meet the officers of our army, you will find that their behaviour is better because they are much more disciplined than an average civilian of our country of the same standard including the Members of our Parliament. This is because they are in continuous training. There is another thing also; as Shri U. C. Patnaik puts it—this a very pet phrase which he has been using very often—the socio-economic aspect. That was also a part of his appeal today about the civilian organisation's advice in defence matters.

So far as the problems of our present defences are concerned, any side-tracking is dangerous. They must proceed in the same way in which they have been so far. Last year also, the instance of China was given. But, it is quite different there. There are 3 to 5 million soldiers in China. No doubt about it. But, defence does not mean only man-power. Defence means industrial resources of the country and the weapons at their disposal. I doubt very much if China has industrial resources at its command to give modern rifles to 3 to 5 million soldiers. It is quite impossible for her to provide ammunitions and other weapons of modern warfare to such a huge army. Comparison is always not good. But, we can say that our average soldier with his fire-power must be superior to a soldier in any country in Asia including China. This is not my study of the position; this is the study of some neutrals who deal with these points and also study the peace time army, its potentiality and capacity.

Now I would like to take up some modern weapons of warfare because in the consideration of the problems of defence, they play a major role. Of course, we cannot compete with the major military powers in the world today. Perhaps, we need not compete with them at all. Our problems are quite different. So far as the security of our country is concerned, and to

maintain our freedom and neutrality the present set-up of the defences is a good one. No doubt, we have to bring about certain improvements in it. We have not got to indulge in any basic changes.

There is a good deal of talk nowadays about the nuclear weapons, about atomic bombs, nuclear fission and all that. One of the experts—perhaps he was captain Liddel Hart who said recently that all his experience of the last 40 years has become now obsolete. Many great countries are thinking in these terms. They have also come to the conclusion—countries including America and Great Britain—that they cannot do without the conventional weapons and conventional tactics. So far as nuclear weapons are concerned, our country is not so vulnerable comparatively as the countries of Europe, because ours is a huge country and our industries are decentralised. Half a dozen atomic bombs or hydrogen bombs could wipe out Great Britain. For our country they will need hundreds of such bombs which are not available. Technically, it is not possible to bomb us on that scale, and it would be too costly. For the attacking forces, it will not be profitable at all. There is a simple logic that has developed in recent months, about Asiatic countries and Asiatic terrain. That is, if you have not got atomic bombs in your hands, you will not be bombed by our enemy. Because it is only fear which compels one Power to atom-bomb another Power. That fear factor is absent in our case. We are not going to attack anybody.

We have to keep these considerations in view. Our forces will have to depend mostly on conventional weapons. By conventional weapons, I mean in this air age, a fine air force, an efficient navy, naval aviation and a good artillery tank corps. These weapons must be forged. Here we can do something. In the last few years, our industrial resources have increased. With that increase, we can

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rely more on our own industries today than we were able to do a few years ago. What we can do is this. Instead of buying planes from other countries or tanks from other countries we can make aero-engines and we can make tank engines in our country. We can design them according to the suitability of our terrain, and according to our present needs. We can do it; we must take up this task. I am not an expert in these matters, as to what type of things should be prepared and what types not.

Only, I shall give an example because I have been studying the development of tanks over the last 25 years. (Some Hon. Members: Oh!) Yes. When Germany was not able to build up tanks, it made experiments in another country. Their officers went there and I was for some time also, at that time, their interpreter. This is a very fascinating subject and if anybody pursued it, it will absorb him completely. From that experience. I can tell you.

I do not know what types we have and what types not. But I may give one example. Take the Centurion tank. One tank costs one million rupees. That is a very heavy vehicle. Perhaps it cannot pass over many of the important bridges we have in our country. We must take up other type which is being developed on the continent of Europe. In India, our mind mostly turns to the British pattern from which we have developed our army but we must try to suit things to the modern conditions. Today, we have also to take into consideration the developments that countries other than Great Britain are making—I mean in the continent of Europe and America and other countries. If you study the modern development in tank strategy, you will find that they are not now going in for the very big, very heavy weapons as previously. For the same amount for one previously, they build up 20 or 30 or 50 other small tanks. That is possible. You may

call this new one—Universal motor type. We can change our vehicles by producing engines of that type. That would be very profitable because our country is very big. We need such tanks and vehicles in very large numbers. If we could make these things in larger numbers, it is profitable instead of buying the Centurions.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: What about the tanks worth Rs. 819 crores in a particular vehicle depot?

Dr. S. N. Sinha: They have become obsolete perhaps. They will have to be thrown into the river.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Not all.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: Do you know the latest theory in tank strategy? If you want to have up-to-date tanks, you will have to throw many old tanks into the river. Modernising is the principal factor in these things.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): Which river, (Interruption).

Mr. Chairman: No cross-questioning please. If the cross-questions go on, this debate will not be allowed to be continued. I would request hon. Members not interrupt the hon. speaker.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: This question of modernisation of our tanks is a very important matter. We must see if we can do this. Of course, it will be much better if our Defence Minister or some of his Advisers in the Defence Organisation study this problem by going to foreign countries where they are available. We will be profiting very much because this is the crucial time when such vehicles and such armaments are in the process of development throughout the world. They would be the decisive factor in the future wars. These nuclear weapons are not going to be decisive. At least in the Asiatic arena, these weapons are going to be decisive. There is no doubt about that.

So far as military training and the personnel are concern-

ed, I have nothing but admiration for our army. I have had occasions to observe them closely and I have been greatly impressed by their fine qualities. They are not inferior to any other country in the world. If you encourage them, in fighting, you will find that they are superior to many others. If you refer to the quality of the men, let it be in the first world war or the second, you will find that they have never been inferior to any in the world. Rather, the world has a very great respect for our soldiers. Our Gurkha soldiers are the best in near fight anywhere in the world. They can challenge and defeat any foreigner.

I was just telling you about the good spirit of the Army which is creating a very healthy atmosphere. It is going to be broadened now. How? We are going to have the National Volunteer Force. There I expect from our Army officers that they will not only impart rigid military training to our people, but also make them very good citizens.

In the short time that is at my disposal, I would say one thing more that in this book in the historical section I find they are compiling as many as 26 volumes about the retreat in Burma and also

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Which page of that gospel?

Dr. S. N. Sinha: This gospel you should read again and again tomorrow morning. The first thing you should do is to digest it. I cannot tell you the page number, but you can find it out very easily (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry to find that when the hon. Member speaks or any other Member speaks, there is such a peal of laughter that it almost becomes contempt of that Member. This is a dignified House, the Indian Parliament. I do not expect Members to adopt such an attitude and allow levity to come into the discussion.

Shri Nambiar rose.

Mr. Chairman: It is not proper to interrupt me when I am sub-

mitting for the consideration of the House that certain amount of self discipline must be observed. It is not fair that when a Member speaks from one side there is a peal of laughter from the other side. It is bound to be repeated by the other side if a Member from this side speaks. I want that our discussion should be rather serious. This is purely a contempt of the Member who is speaking. After all, every Member should consider how he would feel if the same thing happens when he is speaking.

Pandit S. C. Mishra (Monghyr North-East): Laughter is not contempt.

Mr. Chairman: I can understand humour, but when an hon. Member is making a serious point I am pained to find that whatever he says is contemptuously set at naught and there is a peal of laughter almost in decision.

Shri Nambiar: May I make a submission?

Mr. Chairman: I do not want to be interrupted in a matter of this nature. There is no question of argument on a matter like this. I may submit that the House fully appreciates humour also, but at the same time when the Member speaks seriously, making a point, then if there is a peal of laughter, that means almost contempt of that Member, which is not allowed. (*Interruptions*) I will not allow any hon. Member to have an argument on this point.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: I have lost about 3½ minutes by this interruption. I would request you to give me only three more minutes, and I will finish.

My quotation is from page 25. What it mentions is a combined inter-service historical section about India and Pakistan. They are compiling in 26 volumes about the retreat from Burma, administration of medical service, Arakan operations etc. About this I have to say that they are per-

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haps, in today's perspective, not so valuable as concentrating upon those things which have developed after our independence days, our policy was dealt with by White Hall through the British officers, and it is only their picture that will emerge from these historical reports.

We have to see what happened in Kashmir. There are many things that we have done, something marvellous which outside countries do not know. Perhaps also hon. Members have never cared for what has been done—to give one example—by Gen. Thimayya on the Zozila front when he took the tanks to such a height where they had never been taken before. In military science and military technique, it has been something of outstanding value, and by that he has contributed something not only to the credit of our Army, but also to the military science itself. We have to see that there are many potential Thimayyas in our country who can do much better than many foreign generals in given circumstances with proper equipment. So, these things should be compiled and I will be looking forward and expecting that this military history is taught properly.

Our Members were laughing today. I know that they were laughing because they have never dealt with such things, they have never been to any camp life, under any military training. That is why they must laugh at anything new which comes to them, because it is not their work. They have never been soldiers.

Dr. Suresh Chandra (Aurangabad): No insinuations.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: Of course, I have every right

Dr. Suresh Chandra: No, Sir. On a point of order. The hon. Member has just made a very serious charge against hon. Members of this House, that the Members have never been in any camp and have no experience. I

think it is a very serious insinuation against the Members of this House and he should withdraw.

Mr. Chairman: Is this a point of order?

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member still maintains that it is? He is only calling attention to what another hon. Member has said, and it is not at all objectionable to say that all the Members have not been to camp.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: No, Sir

Mr. Chairman: I have heard him.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: That is the best proof of.....

Mr. Chairman: There is no point of order involved.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: It is a point of privilege.

Mr. Chairman: There is no point of privilege.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The point of order is that the hon. Member said that there should be no insinuations, and he said: "I have a right to insinuate". That is the point of order.

Dr. S. N. Sinha: This is the best proof of indiscipline they are exhibiting. They have no right to interrupt me.

My last point is: I certainly find in the present officers and men belonging to our armed forces we have forged a very fine weapon upon which we can rely for the security of our country. The record of our Defence Ministry is a good one and it is proving very advantageous to the country. We have reached a stage when we can say with confidence: "Hail our Indian People's Army. March forward to success. Always forward to glory."

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik Central): I rise to place before the House my views on the working of the Defence department in brief.

I was glad to note the progress that has been made in the National Defence Academy buildings. That was a site presented to the Government of India by the State from which I come, and I was very glad to note that the buildings are almost nearing completion. I request the Government of India in the Defence department that they would stick to their original proposal and they will see that the cadets that are trained there will receive training in all the three important branches of the Department, i.e., Army, Navy and Air Force;

I was also very glad to note the progress that is being made in the National Cadets Corps. The number of the cadets has increased considerably, and they have done civil work also in development branches. Only a few months back a unit of the National Cadet Corps of the Bombay University came over to a place named Ghoti which is an important rural centre. They stayed, camped there for a fortnight and they did valuable social work there. That being an important rural centre, hundreds of people came there from the rural areas and witnessed the social work that was done by these cadets. They were very well impressed and throughout the taluka it has given a great impetus to local schemes of social work and self help. I was very glad to know that.

Then, there is expansion of activities in other spheres also and our military is making all-round improvement.

I want to place before the House one other side of the picture. I come from a constituency wherein there is a big military centre known as Deolali—cantonment area. In that area we have got our artillery school. For that school 26,000 acres of land have been acquired. The land was requisitioned in the year 1942, or even a year before that. For a year or two they paid rent for the lands that were requisitioned. Then there was a proposal for acquisition. The acquisition proceedings started. The Defence Department ceased paying any rent to these people.

The lands are in possession of the military. For years together we were representing the matter to the Defence department for making payment, and I am sorry to say that even to this day the people have not been paid full compensation. Part of the compensation has been paid to some people, but you can very well imagine the misery of the people whose lands have been taken over by the Defence department for a public purpose. I have no grievance for their lands having been taken. They have been taken for a good public purpose. But the people ought to have been paid long before. Imagine the miserable plight of a man who loses his field, the only means of subsistence, thirteen years before, does not get any rent, does not get any value, goes from door to door to the officials and gets no relief. Is that a condition which we should tolerate?

After three or four years, after the representations that we made, there was some arrangement made for fixing the value or the acquisition price. I am thankful to the Defence Department that though it was late yet they appointed an officer for this purpose and they gave him the necessary staff. He has nearly finished his work. But even now, as I said earlier, in spite of the lapse of thirteen years, the complete value has not been paid. It is no use giving relief in instalments, because one has to solve the question of rehabilitation. Everything on which I depended for my living has been taken over by Government; then Government must pay me full compensation so that I can rehabilitate myself. When they acquire land on such a large scale to the tune of nearly 26,000 acres is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that all these villagers are rehabilitated? It is not only a question of paying compensation only, but it must help them in rehabilitating themselves elsewhere. It is a question of 5,000 families from 17 villages. I have visited all these 17 villages; I have visited most of the families, and I know their woes, their wants and their miseries. Now it is nearly 13

[Shri G. H. Deshpande]

years since their lands were taken. Even Ram had to be in wilderness only for 12 years. I hope the hon. minister of Defence will consider it now, that this period of 13 years is a pretty long period.

I am sorry to state here that only one officer from the Defence Department, attached to the Southern Command in the lands and hiring department, is responsible for the most part of this affair. I do not want to name the officer here, but he delayed these things purposely with some ulterior motives. Then unsocial elements came there from Bombay, they formed themselves into a company, and it is alleged that this military officer has some relations with it and he tried to rob the people in their difficult circumstances. Agents of the company went from door to door and told the people that they would help them in having sufficient compensation and immediate compensation. This was all very strange. When the legislators were there, when the Collector was there, and the Ministers were there, this company came over there, and they used to name from door to door that a particular officer from the military was in league with them, and that he would help them in having sufficient compensation, and early compensation.

I would urge the Defence Department to make an enquiry into the serious allegations that are being made. He has brought the whole department into disrepute in that area, and the Defence Department today, I tell you, is being cursed in these families. We have a very high respect for our Defence Department, and we have a very high respect for the defence officers for the way in which they are behaving now even in this area, but these people are suffering continuously for the last 13 years. When you help them by way of payment in instalments, they are required to spend that money on their daily

needs. Thus the question of their rehabilitation remains once again.

I want to impress upon the hon. Ministers in the Defence Ministry that this is a very serious grievance. 5,000 families are involved in it. It is a question of 17 villages, and it is a question of 26,000 acres of land to be compensated for. As I have said, the officers have now nearly completed their work. The Collector of the district has also looked into it, and my information is that the papers have reached the Ministry here for final sanction. I hope and trust that this unhappy chapter will be at an end very soon, and they will be paid full compensation. I would request the Defence Ministry to go there, to meet these miserable people, and help them in their future rehabilitation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Besirhat) Last year, when we discussed our Defence Budget, we did so under the shadow of the U.S.-Pak. Pact. Even today, things have not become better, in the sense that today Asia has become the centre for further war machinations, as a result of which the Formosan waters have become troubled. We have recently seen at Bangkok the finalisation of the SEADO, where it has been clearly decided that Singapore would become the base for big military concentrations, and in building up these new military concentrations, Australia would help Great Britain, and Mr. Dulles has promised them every support. This is the background in which we have to consider our Defence Budget.

It is true that there is a growing awareness, since the US. Pak. Pact as well as events in Kashmir, and the performance of certain American experts, that our country's dependence on U.S.A. has to be looked into much more carefully, and we have to be vigilant. But today as the international situation goes, it is necessary also to realise that our "pattern" of defence, as Shri Jawaharlal Nehru called it,

dependent largely on the British pattern, dependent on our trainees going to the Imperial Staff College and mainly getting our technical help from U.K. must begin to be diversified. It is one thing to say—We were under the British, and therefore willy nilly we had a certain system, and we had certain technological lines along which we had worked. That was quite understandable. But it is quite another to develop a fixed idea that we must continue with that pattern. When once we have entered into our own, and we have taken up certain policies in the international sphere, it is necessary that we should also take into consideration how far not only do we “change it here and there” as Shri Jawaharlal Nehru said last year and stick on to the “basic pattern”, but how far that whole conception has to change, how we shall change it, and at what speed we shall change it. The essential thing is that the entire attitude towards it must change.

I remember in my first speech on the Defence Budget, I had focussed much attention on this point of having foreign advisers and personnel, and warned Government about it. At that time, hon. Members called us hysterical, but the force of events has made Government realise the truth of what we said. And that is why we see today that the number of foreign officers in the Army, the Navy and the Defence industries is being reduced. But even today, we have plenty of them. We point this out because Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's theory that imperialism is slowly fading out is outmoded. With the establishment of the SEADO, it has come much more to the forefront, and the idea of depending upon the British pattern is outmoded.

No one denies the need of having “know-how”. It is essential in a backward economy. But I wish this House and this Ministry to review whether the experts that we are getting are really helping us to rapidly produce our own defence industries, and whether they are enabling our own men to draw up their own blueprints

and specifications, and whether this know how and this training is giving our officers and men an intelligent knowledge as to how to develop step by step our own pattern of defence, keeping in view the fact that we are a country where because of certain historical reasons we are in a particular stage of technological development whereby we have many drawbacks; but even in spite of those drawbacks, what will be the best pattern which we can draw upon?

Last year—I do not know very much about military matters except what appeals to me from the common sense point of view—I had said that we should also try to study why it is that in China, they were able to fight against one of the biggest and most technically advanced countries in the world, viz. the U.S.A. and why it is that North Korea was successful against them in spite of the fact that they were far more backward. In fact if you compare what they had with what the Americans had, they had very few technically advanced weapons. But they had manpower. We have manpower. We need not copy everything they have. I do not know as a matter of fact whether we will be allowed even to know what all they have. In these matters of defence people do not allow other countries to know what they have. Still, why should we not intelligently apply the experience of others to our conditions and develop what should be the pattern in a backward country? That is a thing that we have got to take into consideration. It has often been stated by the Prime Minister it is no use depending on newer and newer weapons; we spend a lot of money on them. If we only bank on getting the first class weapons, we will find in quite a short time that all those weapons are outmoded, and we are not in position to be able to spend more money, and if we do not have the money, then we are left in the soup. So that is the background in which I would like the whole matter to be discussed. These are the two aspects.

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

Now, during 1954-55, till 31st January 1955, the following officers and subordinates were sent as trainees to U.K., U.S.A., Australia and Canada. The number of Army officers was 33, Navy officers 22 and Air Force officers 57. The number of Army JCOs was 10, the number of Navy cadets was 9 and Ratings 70; the number of airmen was 24. These people were sent across and we are given these figures, official figures. The total number of Indian Naval officers trained in U.K. since partition has been 161. Even after reduction, we still have 33 British officers in the Navy and they still remain to be replaced by Indian personnel.

Now, besides that, let us see how far these foreign experts have been able to help us. Let us take the case of the HAL. I would like the Ministry to reply to this. The HAL is stated to have 6 foreign nationals on contract. They are production managers, technical experts etc. etc. The bulk of the work that HAL does is overhauling and producing rail coaches and double-decker bus bodies. Of course—Shri Tyagi is now looking at me—there is the HT2; I do not deny it. It is there, it has been much publicised. We have seen it; we have been told that it has won first place in the Ceylon air display. But a peculiar thing came to light in the course of question hour that only the body is made in India, and then in answer to a supplementary, the Deputy Minister made a very, shall I say, funny statement. He said—after all, the body of the aircraft is more important! Then, when it was followed up and the question of the engine came up, he said—well, about building engines, we are thinking about that also now. I feel that the seriousness of the whole problem is minimised when our Ministers themselves give answers to us in this manner. We have been able to evolve a particular machine, we have had the design, we have built the body, but how far have all these long lists of experts that we have got, how far have they got us in building of the whole aircraft?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: They are building rail coaches.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That I have mentioned.

Shri Nambiar: It is an aircraft factory!

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I am not saying anything against the rail coaches, because if we stop the production of rail coaches, they will declare surplus personnel, and I do not want that they should be thrown out.

I would like the Ministry to realise that it is important for us to go step by step so that as soon as possible we will be able to produce our own planes and our own technicians. I would also like to mention that except rifles, shells and hand-grenades, nothing worth mentioning has been made in India, as far as my information goes. We have a small arms factory in Kanpur. We are supposed to be manufacturing Bren gun. Now, in regard to the Bren guns, I would like the Ministry to tell us, how much of its essential parts are imported and assembled and how much are really made over here. That is a thing that would be of interest to this House. As a matter of fact, since 1951, has the number increased substantially or has it remained at that rather magical figure of 21 or 22? We were told that almost all the blue-prints come from the U.K.

Now, take the case of ordnance factories. We still have 45 non-Indians. Let us see what they are like. We have, for example, Swiss experts in Khamaria and Ambernath. What are the specific items they have produced? Scathing criticism has been made by certain parliamentary Committees of this House itself, and during question hour also we have understood the way things are functioning there. Is it not a fact that a huge amount has been paid to a Swiss firm despite its failure to fulfil the contract? These foreigners have no interest and that is why we feel that it is necessary and very

desirable to replace them by efficient Indian engineers and scientists.

Last year, Shri Tyagi told us about putting certain orders to the Shipyard at Visakhapatnam for vessels. Often in this House we have been told by the Prime Minister—well, people just do not give us first-class vessels, do not give us all the newest equipment that is necessary for the navy, so we take what best we can within our resources. That is quite understandable. People are not going to give it. We just have to try and fend for ourselves with as much know-how and technical knowledge that we can get. Therefore, we would like to know what has happened to these naval vessels which were ordered last year. Have we been able to get them? As far my knowledge goes, I believe that in the Hindustan Shipyard these foreign experts have not the requisite qualifications. I believe, again and again, every three months or four months, they are changed, the terms of the contract are being changed, and all sorts of things are going on. I would like the Ministry to enlighten us about that. The growth and development of our defence industries is of the utmost importance. What is it that we see in the Budget in regard to this industrial development? We find that in 1953-54, we spent Rs. 12 lakhs. The Budget figure for 1954-55 is Rs. 1.25 crores. The figure of revised estimates was Rs. 75 lakhs. Why is this short-fall continuously being shown? I do not know what is going to happen this year. But if events of the past few years are to continue, certainly the same story will be repeated. Now, at this stage of our development, when we need more and more industrial development in the country, why is it that there is a short-fall every time?

Now, let me take, for instance, the ordnance factories. What has happened to the ordnance factories etc. which were there? A Reorganisation Committee was formed. Already my friend, Shri U. C. Patnaik, has said that their report has been treated as a very secret document. Now, I do not

know what exactly is very secret about it. We want to know what type of things will be produced. We do not want to see the machinery; we do not want to know exactly how and what particular type of defence machinery will be produced—some may be very strategic material. But we certainly want to know what are the recommendations, main recommendations, of the Committee. We would like them to be placed on the Table of the House. As far as my information goes, the Reorganisation Committee has recommended further expansion of our industries and the absorption of all the men. In spite of that, today we find that 50 per cent of the machinery remains idle. Some of it is good machinery, some of the old machines can be brought up to date. As a matter of fact, in China we saw some derelict machines, how they are trying to salvage them and trying to bring them up to modern specifications and trying to get as much as they can from them. So why is it that still 50 per cent of our machines are idle? Although it is true that the surplus personnel in these factories have been reduced from 7000 to about 2000 or 3000, a large number of them are technicians and they still remain idle.

Now, we feel that it is very necessary here again for planning, for co-ordination. I think my friend, Shri U. C. Patnaik, has already spoken on that point. Ordnance factories can produce all sorts of engineering goods, drawing instruments, may be even precision instruments, binoculars, microscopes and heavy chemicals and a variety of other materials, especially strategic material too. For instance, the E.M.E. are well equipped workshops with modern machineries. Not only can they function as repair shops but they can start manufacturing machine parts and heavy vehicle parts, if slightly improved.

I would just like to mention that it is necessary to integrate the whole thing and for that, it is necessary to have the full co-operation of the personnel, both civilian and military.

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

Now, one of the things that is brought up again and again is that we do not actually give security of service to our civilian personnel. Take industrial personnel. I was surprised to hear that 1½ lakh people are kept temporary. The latest recommendation is that 40 per cent should be made permanent. But when, how, and according to what method are they to get permanency? We are absolutely in the dark about it. I think it was in October that the recommendation was made. But up till now nobody knows what is going to happen to the demand that those who put in continuous service for three years should be made permanent.

Now, there is a very peculiar thing about Defence accounts. I believe that actually in Defence they have pre-audit. The new pay code came into force from 1-1-47 or 1-1-48 which ever was the option of the employees. But there are employees whose pays have not been fixed because of audit difficulties all these years. Now, this is a thing that has to be looked into. Sometimes the delay is so great, for no fault of the employees, that the whole matter is time-barred and the entire matter has again to be put before the India Government.

Now, I have very little time at my disposal. I just want to say a word about security of service. It is necessary to see that people who are under the threat of retrenchment are not sent away. We have said that there is work, but there is no planning. For instance, we find that in many places good buildings are necessary both for the military as well as for civilian use. If you go to Panagarh in the State from which I come, you will see that they are living in old ramshackle buildings. I would just like to quote what is stated in the boards put there—'Condemned barracks. People live at their own risk'. When there is so much need for new expenditure on

works and buildings, why should we find that there is actually a short-fall? For instance, under Major Works (Army) we find that the budget for 1954-55 is Rs. 15 lakhs while the figure of revised estimates is Rs. 12 lakhs. In 1954-55, we find under Capital Outlay that there is a short-fall of about Rs. 5 crores. I feel that this is a very important matter that has to be looked into. We feel strongly that the whole matter of the condition of industrial workers has to be reviewed again. The Kalyanwala report has to be implemented in full including Mr. Subramanyam's recommendations.

I would refer to another question, the question of wastage and corruption. The House has often debated this point. Now, so far as the maintenance of stores is concerned, nobody knows what are the stores actually lost. The total value of Defence stores which were declared as surplus to the Disposals during 1953-54 was Rs. 23.51 crores. Do you know that the actual value has reduced itself to 7.47 crores and the sale value is 5.25 crores. Sir, this is how things are being maintained.

As a matter of fact, I can tell you that in Panagarh they sold some scrap iron in lots. The All India Defence Employees Union itself came forward and informed the authorities that these people are selling it at the estimate of 100 tons but actually it was about 300 to 400 tons. No enquiry was made and those that reported about it have been charge-sheeted. On the one hand there is corruption and on the other hand there is wastage because these things are not being properly looked into. Therefore, the whole matter is involving so much loss to our public Exchequer and I feel it is very necessary to investigate these things.

There is another interesting point. Although the number of security officers has been increasing the number of fires has also been increasing. Generally, about the months of February and March there are what are

euphemistically called "combustions"! Combustions take place and, of course, there is a hue and cry about sabotage and all that sort of thing. There is one thing which is somewhat interesting. Roundabout this time of February-March is the time when they go for stockchecking, and this "combustion" is a good mode of getting over the looseness that may have occurred in the maintenance of these stores!

I just want to end by saying again that it is very necessary for us to evolve as soon as possible a new pattern of defence. It is not only enough for us to base ourselves on the old methods. It is not only necessary to change "here and there" but base ourselves on the stage of our technological development and try to put in as many of our own personnel into the posts and do away with those experts who are not helping us at all and base ourselves on the democratisation of the Army. I feel that is necessary again to stress the relationship between the *jawans* and the officers. I do not say that all officers are bad. But, there is a brass-hat attitude amongst many of them. Many of the defence personnel feel that there is no camaraderie, which is necessary, if we want a democratic army. We have to stop thinking in terms of camaraderie being only a question of formal singing and dancing together. The word must also bring realisation that today in the present context of things the people who get lower salaries are not necessarily your servants. The human aspect and the human attitude of each strata of the personnel have to be taken into consideration and trade unionists and trade unionism which is today being victimised should not be attacked.

Recently, in the negotiating machinery that was set up, at the last meeting certain items were discussed and the committee was adjourned because Dr. Katju thought he needed time as he was new to the job. Now, in

the Rajya Sabha we heard that it was not adjourned but the meeting was terminated, and a new agenda will have to be proposed. We feel that it is necessary for the defence personnel and the administration of the Ministry to sit together in a spirit of understanding and in a spirit of being able to evolve common policies to be able to work out a common system based on mutual understanding. If we really work for that, I am sure, we will be able to get the full co-operation of labour of the civilian side as well as the military side.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I may have your permission to intervene in this debate, not so much to deal with the estimates nor even with some of the criticisms made but rather to say something about some general features of our Defence.

But before I do that, I may say a few words with regard to what the hon. Member opposite has just now said about our developing a new pattern and new spirit of camaraderie etc. I do not quite know what she meant by a new pattern. What type of new pattern it may be may, perhaps, be considered. But the old pattern, the pattern of the British, we cannot and should not maintain, except in so far as it contains some elements which were good, undoubtedly they were good and there should be a spirit of camaraderie as well as discipline there is no doubt about that. And, I would add that there has been to my knowledge a considerable change in many of these matters in our Defence Services. In fact, if I may say so, I wish there was that much of camaraderie on the civil side between the various ranks as there is in the military side.

Till some months ago, I was functioning as Defence Minister. Even before that, and ever since I became Prime Minister, I have taken a great deal of interest in our Defence Ser

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

vices and when I became the Defence Minister, naturally, the interest was greater and the time I gave them was much greater too. I did so because Defence is important and I was particularly interested in our young men in the Army, Air Force and the Navy. I did so, also because I found it an exhilarating experience to meet our young men from these Services because they are a fine batch of young men—whatever Service they are, in whatever grade they are—and it was always a pleasure and much more so to me to meet them and discuss matters with them. And, they showed an intellectual alertness which was very pleasing. By and large, I should say that our Defence Services are very good. I would even go a step further and say that of our Defence establishments, in spite of many criticisms that are made and in spite of the fact that many of the criticisms may be valid and may be true. But one has to take the broad picture and must not lose oneself because of some difficulties that may arise. Our Defence establishments are efficient and good and our men are good men.

As I was coming, the hon. Member was referring to some ships and quoted me. I did not quite follow what she said—as saying that we are getting bad ships and all that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Outmoded vessels for Navy training.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not remember what I said then to which she referred. But, in the Navy, we had got only a big vessel. What we got was a cruiser. Undoubtedly, it was an old cruiser. It was not palmed off as new; nor did we by mistake take it. Of course, a new cruiser would have cost us an enormous amount. We wanted that for training and other purposes, not for warlike operations, not much in that way. And, it was a good bargain. We got it for that purpose and it served a good purpose not only for

training but for going to various parts of the world, for manouvres, for various technical exercises and so on and so forth. It has served its purpose very well indeed. The choice we had was either to take it or not to take it; or we could have had, of course, a brand new cruiser at an enormous cost. We did not think it worth while then and we do not think it worth while even today.

That leads one to the larger question really to have armaments for a modern Army or Navy or Air Force. That is a very different question. That too can be divided up into two parts. One is whether the country concerned thinks in terms strictly of defence or something more than defence. Of course, every country talks of defence and its defence forces. But it need not necessarily follow that they build up their defence forces only for defence. So far as we in India are concerned, whenever we think of the equipment of our Army, or Navy or Air Force, the arms that we supply, we think strictly in terms of defence. I won't go into details of that. But hon. Members will realise that there is a difference between, let us say, having an army which can hit a thousand miles away and something which is useful within a limited sphere of distance. We have no intention of hitting anybody thousands of miles away. Therefore, we concentrate on the type of equipment and weapons which might be needed for near-by defence.

Also, in these days of tremendous technological development, it may be said—and it is said, in fact—that all the weapons, all the conventional weapons that most armies possess today, even the good weapons are out-of-date, because unconventional weapons connected with atomic energy and the like of it are coming into use, or are likely to come into use. Many of the armies of Europe and America and elsewhere maybe are being armed with atomic artillery

and the like. Now, no army, or no defence force can have a double side,—the conventional weapons and the modern unconventional weapons, as they are called rather euphemistically. So, you cannot train your people in two ways and fight in two ways. We are in a period of transition. I do not know what the future will show. Anyhow, so far as we are concerned, we have no choice and we do not think in terms of this so-called unconventional weapons. We have neither got them, nor is there any possibility of our getting them, nor is it our desire to get them. Therefore, all these factors govern our approach to defence: first, defence only and not hitting out at a distance; second, arms suited for that, then the third, that, as far as possible, we should produce the arms or the equipment ourselves. Obviously, we cannot do it suddenly. But, on the whole, we prefer to have,—if I may use the word,—second-rate weapons that we produce ourselves than a first-rate weapon on which we have to rely on somebody else. Of course, all these matters have to be balanced in some way, but this is our broad approach.

One thing I would like to say in this connection is that unfortunately even up till now we have continued to use English words of command. We have in fact changed them somewhat and hon. Members would remember that on the Republic Day Hindi words of command were used, but they have not come to common use yet. But very soon, I hope that will be done.

We attach particular importance to defence industries: the development of our industrial side of defence and the development of our scientific organisation. In fact, both are inter-related and connected. In so far as our defence industries are concerned, we are trying to use them more and more for civil purposes, as otherwise, part of the machinery will lie waste.

In regard to the scientific side of our Defence Ministry, I think I can say that it is not too big, of course.

but it is very good and in very competent hands. It is recognised as such by others who have dealt with scientific patterns either in defence or in other fields.

Now, I should like to inform the House today of a certain change in designation that we propose to make very soon. The House knows, or some of the Members might know, that in the old days there was a single Commander-in-Chief of the three Services. In the British days, the Commander-in-Chief of the three Services was also the Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council. He was, in fact, we might say, No. 2 in India, apart from defence matters generally speaking. That obviously could not continue and certain changes took place from 1946 onwards. The first step was he ceased to be the Vice-President of the Viceroy's Council from August 1946. Then he was simply the Commander-in-Chief of the three Services. Then, I think a little later, in 1947 when independence came there were some further changes. After independence each Service was placed separately under its own chief and they were designated, the Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, the Flag Officer Commanding, the Royal Indian Navy and the Air Marshal Commanding the Royal Indian Air Force. In order to mark this altered role, they were given in February 1948 the additional designation of Chief of Staff along with their own designations. A few months later a slight change was effected in these designations in order to make their designations uniform for the three services and they were called the Chief of the Army Staff, and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, Chief of the Naval Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Navy, and Chief of the Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Air Force. That is the present position.

Now, even when independence came, we felt that it was slightly incongruous to have these designations. It did not fit in with the new turn in the country, and especially when the new Constitution came in, as hon.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

Members no doubt know under Article 53(2) the President became the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Normally speaking, under a democratic set-up Commanders-in-Chief are appointed only for operational purposes; they are not a sort of permanent Commanders-in-Chief, I am not generalising, because my words may not apply to every country. But this is the normal practice. In some countries it may be different. Then, for some years we felt that the present designations were not in keeping with our Constitution and the practice as it is in vogue in democratic countries. However, there were many other important things to do and we waited for a suitable opportunity to make this change in designation.

In making any change, I want to make it perfectly clear that no question arose in this connection of reducing the authority or status of these Chiefs of Staff or Commanders-in-Chief. Their authority, including operational authority, would continue to be the same. But we felt that it would be better if in future the designation of Commander-in-Chief should be dropped and they should be called the Chiefs-of-Staff, etc. This kind of dual role was considered rather incongruous. Therefore, it is proposed that the Heads of the Services in future be called the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff, and in the course of a few days orders to this effect will be issued.

In some countries, where they have not got these Commanders-in-Chief in this manner—in fact, in most democratic countries—they have some kind of Defence Councils; in England, for instance, there is the Army Council, the Air Council and the Board of Admiral which perform the functions of the Commanders in-Chief. No doubt, it may be desirable for us also to form these Councils. We shall look into this matter. We cannot, of course, produce a Council

suddenly. A Council represents a great deal of experience and accumulated knowledge of our senior officers. But we are going into this matter and hope gradually to develop these councils for each of these services.

In the early days, the House will remember, that is after independence for some little time we had a British Commander-in-Chief in the Army, Air Force and Navy—Chief of Staff and Commander-in-Chief. Then, soon after, in the army we had an Indian Commander-in-Chief. The next step, about a year or more ago, I forget, in the Air Force one of our senior Indian officers became Commander-in-Chief. At present therefore, it is only in the Navy that we have a British officer as our present Chief of Staff and Commander-in-Chief. I should like to say that these British officers that we had in the last few years have done remarkably good work in our Defence Services and I should like to express my high appreciation of their work, how they have really thrown themselves into the development of these services, especially of the Air Force and the Navy, because they were relatively undeveloped—the Army was fairly developed in our Country—and there have been very marked improvement all round. Of course, some time later, I do not know when, after some months, there will be a change in the Navy too. The distinguished Admiral who is commanding our Navy, the British Admiral, will retire from the Indian Service and go back maybe to the British Navy and we shall have an Indian officer there too. So, this process has been phased out in the last two years, so that we could get the best advantage of the experienced senior officers from England to train our own men.

In the Army we are completely self-sufficient; we have been for some time in the Air Force, we are so now; and in the Navy we hope to be so fairly developed in our country—and in the new designations that we have

*This statement was later corrected by the Prime Ministers. See col. 3383.

decided upon, we did seek no lessening of the authority or the status of the heads of the Services who in future will be called the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy or the Air Force. And later on we shall consider the question of having Councils for each of the Services which will perform the functions that normally a Commander-in-Chief does.

Mr. Chairman: Shall we take up non-official business? There are only seven minutes left. This time, I think, can be utilised for taking up the Bill relating to salaries etc. of Members.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3.—(Amendment of section 6 etc.)

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): There is an amendment of mine.

Mr. Chairman: Notice of it has been given just today, and the hon. Member knows the rules of the House.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : यह अमेंडमेंट बहुत जरूरी है। इस के लिये आप टाइम दे दीजिये।

In page 1, line 12, for "first class pass" substitute:

"first class pass with an additional third class pass".

Mr. Chairman: This amendment cannot be allowed. It has been re-

ceived only today. The hon. Member knows full well that it must be received one day previous to the day it is taken up. I am very sorry I cannot take it up.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है।

Mr. Chairman: May be important. The Rules of the House are there and I cannot allow it.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : आप इस को रख सकते हैं।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. There is no occasion for unnecessary interruption. The question is...

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री (जिला आजमगढ़—पूर्व व जिला बलिया—पश्चिम) : मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। सदस्य महोदय हिन्दी में बोल रहे और आप अंग्रेजी में बोल रहे हैं। कृपा कर हिन्दी में कहिये ताकि वह समझ लें।

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : मैं अंग्रेजी समझ सकता हूँ।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member knows this is not the way to behave; when the Chair is on its legs a Member ought not to stand up. The hon. Member fully knows the English language and is speaking in the English language.

The question is.....

Shri Ramji Verma (Deoria Dist.—East) rose—

Mr. Chairman: Does he want to move his amendment?

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj rose—

Mr. Chairman: I am asking another hon. Member. I do not know why he is interrupting the proceedings. I am asking Shri Ramji Verma whether he is moving his amendment. Then the question will arise about any discussion or the clause.

Shri Ramji Verma: I beg to move:

In page 1, line 12,

for "first class pass" substitute "first class pass with a third class pass".