

Shri Kasliwal: I have not given any amendment, but I think there is another amendment to that effect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is your point?

Shri Kasliwal: If the hon. Minister accepts my suggestion, an amendment can be moved to that effect by the Government itself. I am only making my suggestion. As it is, they have provided six months punishment or fine or both. They are making this a cognizable offence under this Act. So, six months punishment is not a proper punishment. It should be at least one year. I am not saying that the punishment should be very heavy, but I think one year would be a sufficient period.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are some amendments given notice of by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. He is not present. Do the Government adopt any one of those amendments?

Shri Datar: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1.—(Short title etc.)

Amendment made: Page 1, line 4, for "1955" substitute "1956"

—[Shri Datar]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made: Page 1, line 1, for "Sixth Year" substitute "Seventh Year".

—[Shri Datar]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

TERRITORIAL ARMY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Territorial Army Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, in 1948 the Indian Territorial Army was re-organised and rules were framed. I am happy to say that the army has had a good reception and the response too has been very good. Only last week, we celebrated the eighth annual year of the Territorial Army.

The purpose of the army is to give opportunities to those who are inclined to serve the country and receive training in arms on a firm and solid basis for a number of years. When you get yourself enrolled in the

army, then it is not merely a sort of one year show. But there is a good period of training for seven years and you are liable to be called on and given military ranks. The whole thing is just like the army organisation itself. It is divided into two parts. One is called the urban part and the other provincial part. The urban part is intended to give training mostly to people living in urban areas where the unit may be situated. It gives opportunities to Government servants, employees in different organisations, industrial concerns etc. to come and receive military training during spare hours for 2 or 4 hours a week. Altogether it comes to about 120 hours in the year. If there is a more intensive programme, it may be doubled, but the intention is that the spare time may be employed in it.

The provincial part is intended to apply to non-urban people. There are camps for about 4 to 14 days in the year. When the officers are actually serving, they receive the emoluments and allowances which are paid to army ranks. For this, 4 hours of work is considered to be equal to a day and officers serve on the same basis as in the usual army. In urban areas, effort is made to utilise the services, as I said, of Government officers and also to take advantage of the technical ability which you find in public utility concerns, in electricity concerns, in the railways, in the dock-yards and so on and so forth.

Up till now the Indian Territorial Army runs on a purely voluntary basis. People who are actuated by a desire to serve the country and to prepare themselves for any emergency come and volunteer. It is intended to be a sort of a second line of defence. But two years back it was found that while the response was very good, there was some deficiency on the technical side. Therefore, this Bill was introduced in 1954 and I am glad to say that since then the response is improving. People are taking to it very enthusiastically,

actuated by the desire to improve their own efficiency and to serve the country if any emergency arises. Now, this Bill is intended to confer the power on the Government to call upon the people to come and serve in the army, but not indefinitely. There is no intention to convert the Indian Territorial Army into a conscript army. The character will be a voluntary one. But, if there is a deficiency in any particular rank, in particular in the technical portion of the army, then we desire that Government should have the power to call upon the people to join the Territorial Army and serve. That is the main intention of the Bill; but, I want to make it clear that it is only an enabling thing and there is no intention to have a conscript Territorial Army at all. That is the main purpose of the Bill.

Section 6A confers this power on the Government to call upon people, particularly the technicians, to come and serve. I have given notice of certain amendments, the object of which is to make good what has been lost sight of. For instance, in the Bill itself it is provided that Government may call upon public servants and people who are employed in public utility concerns to send their names to the prescribed authority. We now think that it is better to impose this duty not only upon the individuals themselves, but also upon their employers. That is one of the objects of the amendments I have given notice of.

Secondly, there is the rule-making power. Section 6A—clause 3 of the Bill—says that people who are called upon to serve in the Territorial Army may be continued in service in accordance with the rules that may be framed. One of the amendments that I have given says that the rule-making power should be exercised in a particular fashion. Section 14 of the original Act confers that power; we have now tried to include both classes of persons—persons who are enrolled as volunteers on their own

[Dr. Katju]

application and persons who come and who want to serve.

I have explained the main object of the Bill. It is a non-contentious measure and I hope it will commend itself to the approval of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Territorial Army Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we all know that as early as 1920, during the period of the first World War, the then British Government thought it fit to create a Territorial Army or Force in this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Since he is likely to take some more time, he may continue tomorrow. The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 23rd November, 1956.
