

S. No.	Name of Industrial concerns	(Rs. in lakhs) Amount of loans sanctioned
1.	Tata Chemical Ltd., Mithapur	50.00
2.	Cellulose Products of India Ltd., Ahmedabad	3.00
3.	Amreli Sahakari Krishi Khand Udyong Ltd, Amreli	90.00
4.	Precision Bearings (I) Ltd, Maneja	5.61
5.	Gujarat Polyamides Ltd., Udhana	150.00
6.	Indian Farmers Fertilisers Corporation Ltd. Kalol and Kandla.	300.00
7.	Sardar Vallabhai Patel Khand Udyog Co-operative Society, Dhoraji.	90.00
8.	Gujarat State Fertilisers Company Ltd., Bajina	13.22
		701.83

During the last 3 financial years the Agricultural Finance Corporation approved scheme worth Rs. 8 crores to Gujarat Electricity Board for energisation of irrigation wells.

(c) As on 31st March, 1972 the Industrial Finance Corporation of India had 7 pending applications from 5 concerns located in Gujarat State for aggregate financial assistance of Rs. 820.00 lakhs (including loans to the extent of Rs. 700 lakhs).

No proposal from Gujarat State is pending with the Agricultural Finance Corporation.

SHRI VEKARIA : May I know from the Minister how many applications were rejected during the last three years and what were the main causes for their rejection ? Secondly, what was the percentage for Gujarat of the total loans sanctioned for the whole country by this Corporation ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : During the last three years no application has been rejected; seven applications are pending. As far as Gujarat is concerned, it is 7.5 per cent.

SHRI VEKARIA : The hon. Minister has said that seven applications are

pending before the Industrial Finance Corporation. What are the reasons for delaying these applications and how soon will they be cleared ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : These are at various stages of examination.

Proposal for Bengal Regiment in the Army

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*512. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal Government have urged the Central Government to constitute a Bengali regiment in the Army as a step towards solving the acute unemployment problem in the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government are not in favour of raising any new regiment based on a class.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH As the reply is not very clear, I want to know the definition of the class under which Bengalis have been put.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA The reply does not imply that Bengalis are a class. The reply has been given in the manner the question has been framed. People who speak Bengali constitute a class or linguistic group in the country. Our policy has been made clear that we will not discriminate among citizens of the country on the basis of either language or caste or creed or religion as far as recruitment to the armed forces is concerned. We only look to the medical standards and physical fitness of the recruits. That is the only consideration. We do not wish to create any further regiments or any units based on any of these classes which may be on the basis of either language or religion or what ever it is.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH I want to know whether there are no regiments in the Army known as Marathi Regiment, Rajputana Rifles, Assam Rifles and Jat Regiment, named on regional basis.

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल सचन को यह बात मालूम है कि ये रेजिमेंट्स पहला से ही चली आ रही है। लेकिन गवर्नमेंट की नीति है कि हम इस तरह की नई रेजिमेंट्स या नये यूनिट्स नहीं बनायेंगे। पुराने नाम भी बदले जा सकते हैं, लेकिन हम को उन्हें सावधानी से और ध्यान से बदलना चाहिये, क्योंकि हमारी सेना में जो परम्परायें चली आ रही हैं, उन को एकदम और जल्दी से बदलने से नुकसान हान का भय है। हमारी यह पक्की नीति है कि पुराने गुजराती के जमाने से और उस के बाद जो कुछ गवर्तिया हुई हैं, उन को जल्दी से जल्दी सुधारें।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA The hon. Minister, I should say, has given a peculiar argument against it. It is known that during the British days, during the Company days, the whole Indian Army was known as Bengal Army. It was disbanded after

1857. During the First World War there was a regiment called as Bengal Regiment. It was also disbanded for political reasons. There are innumerable regiments, brigades, etc., in the name of region, caste and community, I do not understand how the hon. Minister could put forth an argument that they do not want now to continue what was there during the British period. Why don't you have the courage to abolish then all the regional territorial or sub nation names from the Indian Army?

In view of these facts that the demand for raising a Bengal regiment is historical, factual and in keeping with the traditions and practices of the past Governments, and that there is a feeling voiced many times in West Bengal and a proposal made by the West Bengal Government now, may I know whether the Government will reconsider this proposal or, otherwise whether the Government will abolish all regional territorial or sub nation names from all the regiments of the Indian Army?

प्रधान मंत्री महोदय माननीय सदस्य का खयाल यह है कि एक दफा बंगाली रेजिमेंट भी बना दी जाय और फिर ये सब नाम एवं साथ खत्म कर दिये जायें।

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA Sir, I have actually explained all the points that the hon. Member has raised. I will again repeat them with your permission.

I have already said that these regiments of various names, nationalities, languages or regions, were there earlier. Now, our policy is to disband them, not in the sense of disbanding the regiments as such but not keeping them wholly restricted to such classes. This will have to be done with great care and with a great deal of forethought. I may also make it clear that in the absence of there being a regiment by the name of Bengal Regiment, it does not preclude any citizen of Bengal from becoming a member of any of the armed forces.

DR. RANEN SEN They are precluded.

SHRE VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is absolutely wrong. If any hon. Member suggests that anybody is precluded from getting into the Army or the Air Force or the Navy if he meets the physical and medical requirements, it is absolutely wrong and without foundation. They are not precluded. I can assure them officially and categorically that they are most welcome and we recruit them as the finest fighting people. There is no question about it. We do not want to have any names to cannote these things. The people of Bengal are most welcome, and we regard them as good fighting persons as any in the country.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : During the British rule every Bengali was fraught with suspicion. No Bengali youth was ever admitted in the army because they thought that Bengalis were not loyal to the Britishers. You know the history of the Bengalis who fought for the national struggle. There are already so many regiments, and I am sure that the hon. Minister and even his successor will never be able to remove them because of historical reasons. In case they do not want to start a Bengali Regiment called Subhash Regiment from Bengal ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is a suggestion which can be considered.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : जैसा माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि हम जाति धर्म और प्रायों के नाम के रेजिमेंट समाप्त करना चाहते हैं, यह एक खराबी है, तो कोई निश्चित अवधि बताएं कि जब तक इस खराबी को वह खत्म करेंगे? क्या कि इस से सेनाओं के सिपाहियों के अन्दर काफी आंतरिक रूप से असंतोष रहता है और पक्षपात भी होता है। तो इन सब बातों को देखते हुए क्या आप कोई निश्चित अवधि बनें जब तक कि ये समाप्त हो जाएं?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : माननीय सदस्य की बात को हम मजूर तो करते हैं पर कोई निश्चित अवधि बताना संभव नहीं है।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : क्यों?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : बहुत से कारण हैं। बहुत सी कठिनाइयाँ हैं। हम लोग उस के लिए प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। लेकिन अवधि निश्चित करना कठिन है।

SHRI S. N. MISRA : May I know from the hon. Minister, during the last 25 years, how many of these regional names of the regiments have been changed ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I do not have the information now.

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में जो अभी हाल में डाकुओं ने आत्म-समर्पण किया है तो उस इलाके में छतरपुर, हीरापुर, मिर्जापुर और बिन्ध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर क्या आप का कोई रेजिमेंट खोलने का विचार है जिस से वहाँ डकैती करने वाले लोगों को रोजगार मिल जाय और डकैती बन्द हो जाय?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जिस क्षेत्र का माननीय सदस्य ने यहाँ पर उल्लेख किया वहाँ से हम लोग अपनी सेना में भर्ती करते हैं। वहाँ रेक्यूटिंग सेटस हैं जो रेक्यूट करते हैं और वहाँ जो भी इस लायक पाए जाते हैं कि जो आर्मी में भर्ती किए जाय, वह भर्ती किये जाते हैं।

श्री भागीरथ भंडार : माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह जवाब दिया है कि हम जाति के आधार पर कोई भी रेजिमेंट का गठन अब नहीं करेंगे और जो पहले से हैं उन को धीरे धीरे तोड़ेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो अभी सिख रेजिमेंट, गोरखा रेजिमेंट या जाट रेजिमेंट के नाम से रेजिमेंट काम कर रहे हैं उन में अभी

जो आप भर्ती करते हैं क्या वह जाट रेजिमेंट है तो केवल जाट ही भर्ती किये जाते हैं, या सिख रेजिमेंट हैं तो केवल सिख ही भर्ती किए जाते हैं? और भविष्य में जो आप भर्ती करेंगे वह किस आधार पर करेंगे : यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ।

श्री बिद्या चरण शुक्ल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जिन रेजिमेंट्स के नाम उन्होंने लिए उन में मैं केवल वे बल्कि दूसरे लोग भी भर्ती किए जायेंगे यदा कदा ।

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : May I know whether the regional names in respect of the Army are going to be abolished ? If so, when ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have already answered it. We cannot fix a time limit for it.

Operational Efficiency of Indian Airlines

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*513. SHRI P. M. MEHTA ;
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether operational efficiency of the Indian Airlines has been deteriorating in recent years ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to improve the same ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The working of Indian Airlines has been adversely affected due to the continuing unsatisfactory labour situation in the Corporation. Soon after the lock-out of March 1971, the Government set up a Committee to examine the organisational and administrative structure of Indian Airlines and the relationship between the Management and its employees, and to make recommendations with particular reference

to personnel policies and practices. This Committee was headed by Shri N. P. Sen, who was subsequently appointed Chairman of the Corporation. Its report is under active consideration of the Management, and all efforts are being made to improve the working of the airlines.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that except the seven newly acquired Boeings and the seven Caravelles, all other planes in your fleet are losing money every time they are air-borne and even Caravelles are not earning profits if it is a flight of more than 900 km. If so what steps are being taken to make these flights economically viable ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : The break-even factor varies from plane to plane. It is true that the jet planes are more profitable than the turbo-props because the turbo-props are the older design of planes and their break-even factor is, therefore, much higher. This is something we have to live with because we have these planes and we cannot convert them all overnight into jets. However, steps are always being made to improve the operational efficiency by improving the load factors because if we get the full load factor, then the break-even adverse effect is less.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : I would like to know from the Minister whether the Indian Airlines has suffered a heavy loss during the financial year ended 31st March 1970 and whether it is a fact that during the last financial year ended 31st March 1972 the Airlines will suffer a loss of nearly Rs. 6 crores. If so, what are the reasons ? If so, is it due to the using of old types of aircraft? Or is it due to the slow progress of the tourist traffic ? Or is it due to the failure of the industrial relations department to maintain harmonious relations between the management and the employees and the Airlines ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : There are a number of factors which are responsible for the Airlines making an expected loss in 1971-72 of Rs. 5.20 crores. These factors include the Bangla Desh situation in which we had to overfly Pakistan-occupied territory in Bangla Desh. At that time we