

STATEMENT

The Territorial Army Committee was constituted by the Government in March, 1970 under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. Yadavindra Singh of Patiala. The following were the members of the Committee :—

Non-Official members

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, MP (upto 7th July 1970)

Shri Dalpat Singh MP (In place of Shri R.N. Mirdha)

Shri Yajna Datt Sharma, MP

Lt. Gen. Moti Sagar, PYSM (Retired)

Colonel B.N. Khanna (Retired)

Official members

Deputy Chief of the Army Staff.

Adjutant General, Army Headquarters.

Joint Secretary (G), Ministry of Defence.

Secretary

Director, Territorial Army.

2. The following were the terms of reference of the Committee :—

(i) To review and reassess the existing terms and conditions of service in the Territorial Army and recommend measures to rationalise them with a view to making service in the Territorial Army more attractive.

(ii) To suggest suitable measures for improving recruitment to the Territorial Army.

(iii) To suggest ways and means for making the Territorial Army more useful.

3. The committee submitted its report to Government in December 1970, The salient points in the Report are :—

(i) The role of the Territorial Army should be modified to provide for embodiment of departmental units to run essential services, if so required, in emergency situations.

(ii) The rate of Daily Allowance to TA officers during their training in camps should be increased from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 10/-.

(iii) Retention examination for officers, and map reading and promotion tests for personnel of the departmental units and General Hospitals (TA) should be abolished.

(iv) The rates of terminal gratuity should be raised.

(v) Service liability of an other rank should be reduced to seven years colour service with no reserve liability.

4. The recommendations of the Territorial Army Committee were considered by a "Task Force" under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (G), Ministry of Defence. The examination of the Report has been completed. Out of a total of 63 recommendations of the Territorial Army Committee, 36 have been accepted and implemented, 14 recommendations have not been accepted and the remaining 13 are under consideration of the Government.

FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF TERRITORIAL ARMY PERSONNEL

561. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the functions assigned to the Territorial Army Personnel ; and

(b) what are their conditions of service, as regards the pensionary benefits avenues of promotions and amenities as compared to the ranks and service in the regular army ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

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The functions assigned to the territorial Army are (i) to relieve the regular Army of static duties and to aid the civil power in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where the life of the community is affected or the security of the country is threatened ; (ii) to provide air defence, as necessary ; and (iii) to provide units for the Regular Army, if and when required.

The Territorial Army is complementary to the Regular Army and is a second line of defence of the country. It relieves the Regular Army of certain static duties like protection of vulnerable areas / vulnerable points, guarding of vital installations, guard and escort duties, and air defence, so that the Regular Army is used for deployment in the forward line for offensive and defensive tasks in direct contact with the enemy.

Conditions of Service of T A personnel

The territorial Army being a part time voluntary organisation does not offer a regular career. A Territorial Army is required to attend training for a period upto 2 months annually and is liable to be called up for military service during a national emergency. While embodied for service, personnel of the Territorial Army are entitled to the same pay and allowances as are admissible to their counterparts in the Regular Army.

Officers and JCOs can serve upto the age of 50 to 52 years. Other Ranks have service liability of 7 years' colour service only. Since the Territorial Army does not provide a permanent career to its personnel they are not entitled to any pensionary benefits, except for those who sustain injury or die during training / military service in which case they are entitled to disability / family pension on the same basis as admissible to personnel of the Regular Army. However, terminal gratuity is admissible to officers and personnel of the T A who have completed either a minimum of 5 years of aggregate embodied service (which for this purpose will include the period spent on training) or 10 years engagement in the Territorial Army (combined embodied and non-embodied service) at the rate of one month's pay for each aggregate year of embodied service, subject to a maximum of Rs 12,000. Pay for this purpose will not exceed Rs 1,000 per month.

As regards promotion of T A. personnel, they are given promotion on the same basis as in the Regular Army subject to prescribed service limits. However, the Territorial Army officers are not considered for Command appointments of Territorial Army units in the rank of Lt Col as they neither undergo training at the Officers Training School / Indian Military Academy nor get an

opportunity to acquire basic knowledge of other arms/service of the Regular Army due to the part-time concept of the Territorial Army. During training/military service, the same amenities are provided to Territorial Army personnel as are available to their counterparts in the regular Army.

ARTICLE IN THE TIMES

562 SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen a recent article in the Times, London to the effect that Pakistan won the air war in the December hostilities against India, and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The article presents a one-sided picture and is not based on known and accepted facts.

WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM BANGLA DESH

563. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether it has been decided between India and Bangla Desh to withdraw the Indian Forces from Bangla Desh by March 25th, 1972 ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) Yes, Sir. The withdrawal of Indian troops involved in the conflict with Pakistani troops in Bangla Desh was completed before March, 15th, 1972.

RECONSTITUTION OF BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONALISED BANKS

564 SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reconstitute the Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks, and

(b) if so, the time by when it is likely to be reconstituted ?