

I commend my motion to the House and I hope the Members will unanimously pass this Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
The question is :

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

The motion was adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

THE CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1968

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair]

The Central Reserve Police Force is a Force maintained by the Central Government for the purpose of providing aid to the Civil power, whenever and wherever it is necessary in the country. It falls within the category of 'any other armed forces of the Union' in Entry 2 of the Union List in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. The provisions of this Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949, were generally modelled on the Crown Representative's Police Force Law, 1939. Due to the changed circumstances we had to reorganise it for proper regulation and control of the Force. This Force at the time of the passing of the Central Reserve Police Force, 1949 consisted of only one battalion under the charge of a Commandant but afterwards the internal security problem increased and this Force had to be strengthened. Moreover due to the disturbances in the vulnerable sections in the border areas and also after the Chinese aggression, the strengthening of this Force became necessary. After the Chinese aggression, the States were asked to raise the battalion on our behalf at the cost of the Central Government and that was called the India Reserve Battalion. Now the number of the battalions has gone up. In 1949 it was 17 and now the Central Reserve Police Force, after the embodiment of the India Reserve battalions has increased to 52 battalions. The India Reserve battalion was functioning separately and in order to secure some economy and also to ensure effi-

ciency over the command and control of this organisation, it was merged with the Central Reserve Police Force. The status of the I. G. who formerly headed the Central Reserve Force was changed to D. G. and the D. G. is assisted now by two I.Gs and a number of D.I.Gs and Deputy Directors at the Headquarters. Last year when a comprehensive scheme of reorganisation was introduced, group centres were established like the battalion centres. The housekeeping functions of all the attached battalions are centralised in them and each such centre is headed by an officer of the rank of Commandant. So there is a complete reorganisation of this Force and also certain changes were necessary due to the reorganisation. For this purpose we have come forward with this Bill embodying all these provisions.

I will briefly explain the provisions of the Bill. Clause 2 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to constitute of the force known as battalions and group centres. As I said, the I G's place is taken by the D.G. and a number of posts of other officers like the I.G., D.I.G., Commandants and other officers have been created and this is done by clause 3. Clause 8 deals with certain punishments and the other provisions are only consequential in nature and are minor. I hope the House will agree with this Bill.

The question was proposed.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, undoubtedly the Central Reserve Police has been expanding during all these years and as time passes it appears that it will be required to play a more important and difficult role in the history of this country. The officers' cadre of the C.R.P. can safely be divided for the purpose of understanding its constitution, into 3 categories. The first one is those who are recruited directly to the C.R.P. The second is of those officers who are sent on deputation to this Force. The third one is of those who are enrolled under the scheme of rehabilitation of retired army and police officers. I would like to be corrected if I am wrong anywhere because my information about the Force is naturally limited. I cannot be so well informed as the Deputy Minister. In these three categories, there is a ratable distribution at different levels. For instance, at the Commandant level, 25 per cent. are taken from permanent C.R.P. officers, 25 per cent. are promoted from

[Shri Pitamber Das]

Assistant Commandants and 50 per cent are directly recruited from those who are on deputation or who are under the rehabilitation scheme. I am not going into the details about the other levels, namely, the Assistant Commandant level and the D S P level. There are different percentages for the officers at these levels. At the D I G and I G levels there is hardly any system—no proportion and no basis whatsoever. I have had occasion to talk to some of the young officers of the C R P, and to me it appears that they feel dissatisfied and discontented in some respects, and that dissatisfaction or discontentment can be easily removed. What I mean to suggest is that we altogether stop the re-employment of retired officers to the C R P, and, as far as possible discourage the scheme of deputation to the C R P. I think, by now during these twenty years of the C R P life we must have been able to produce a good number of officers who are quite capable of handling this Force and Deputations are therefore no more needed. I also think that by that we could not only have removed the discontent of the young officers but could also have saved about six lakhs of rupees per year that we have been spending in the shape of deputation allowances.

Then, Sir, I would suggest that the service conditions of the officers serving in the C R P should be equivalent to those of their counterparts in the regular Police or other such Departments. Realising the necessity of this Force and the important part it is likely to play in the very difficult situations the country may be required to face as and when different parties rule in more and more States, I think it is necessary to remove the discontent and dissatisfaction of the young officers who are the future hopes of the C R P. I would request the hon. Deputy Minister to take note of these things and act upto them as and when it is convenient.

Thank you.

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOU-DHARY (West Bengal). Mr Vice-Chairman, I rise to oppose the Bill. The Bill is unnecessary and provocative. 'Police' is a State matter; why the Centre should come in conflict?

Police in a democracy has a role different from that under an imperialist ruler. In the last twenty-two years of Congress rule since independence, the police of our country was not taught that lesson. Hence that old tradition of

police Raj was also the feature of Congress Raj.

We in West Bengal, under the United Front Government, have decided unanimously that Police must not be used as an instrument of any oppression, that they shall not be used to resist any democratic movement in the State. So long, Police was at the command of vested interests and they acted against the interests of labourers, peasants and all toiling masses, and the common men, who constitute 99 per cent of the population and hence are the real masters of this country, were under constant fear of oppression by the police.

We have not yet achieved much in our determined effort to do good to the people of our State, but one thing we have done, honest people are no more afraid of Police. Let the Centre take that lesson from the West Bengal United Front Government.

We are very sore about the happenings at the Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory, and in Durgapur since the United Front Government came to power. In both the places the Central Police Force, on false or flimsy grounds, used firearms and took out the lives of innocent people. There was serious resentment among the public. There was also a day's *Bangla Bandh* in protest against the firing at the Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory.

West Bengal Government made a request to the Centre to withdraw all their Police Force from the State as they had no role to play in matters of law and order in the State.

West Bengal rightly felt that it was Centre's direct interference with the functions of a State Government. Now it is time when all the 44 Battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force should be disbanded, or ordered to vacate, instead of whitewashing the system here and there and increasing the same to 52 Battalions.

I may pertinently ask the Home Minister for an account of the good deeds, if any done by the Central Reserve Police force since 1949 when it was constituted after the law had been passed. The huge expenditure but can't do any good. Communal riots, they do not stop. Railway sabotages are always on the increase if accidents are really sabotages. Corruption, they do not touch to detect. Then why so huge expenses on their account. Let us spend that money on some useful

purpose. Let us bid good-bye to the system of interference with the State Administration by a duplication of Police, and that too against the will of the people of a State. The whole thing is provocative and a sheer nonsense.

Considering the matter objectively from all possible angles I oppose the Bill with all the emphasis at my command.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AK-BAR ALI KHAN) : The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 25th July, 1969.