

The reply given to me was : "It is no use ; the British Press is always against us; so we do not take any notice of it". Is it the attitude of the Government? Are we going to defend our national interest by adopting this attitude?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : The hon. Member must have misunderstood. I think our Missions do take very active interest in this and do try to refute any such news that comes about. But what has happened in England on many occasions is that when a letter has been written to the Press, it has not been published by the newspaper. This is what has happened. But there may be one or two cases in which the High Commissioner felt that that was not the right time to take up the matter. It is the man on the spot who must have the discretion of deciding which is the best way of counteracting such false propaganda.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: My question is if there is any report...

(Interruptions.)

श्री राजनारायण : मेरा एक वैधानिक प्रश्न है। अभी प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहिबा ने आगे के पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने से इन्कार कर दिया था क्योंकि प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहिबाजी के उत्तर से निकला और प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहिबा ने बहुत ही स्पष्ट शब्दों में भारतीय संस्कृति की व्याख्या की कि यहाँ तो बहुत अनेकता में एकता देखी जाती है। अगर इस तरह से अनेकता में एकता देखी जाती है, तो फिर इंग्लैंड के मिशनरी जो यहाँ आकर ईसाई धर्म को फैलाते हैं, अनेक कलचर और पद्धति फैलाते हैं और जब भारत सरकार कहती है कि अनेकता में एकता दिखाती है, तो फिर वह जान, पाकिस्तान और अमेरिका वालों से यहाँ पर धर्म फैलाने के लिए क्यों नहीं कहती है ताकि उसको जो अनेकता में एकता दीखती है वह एक न एक दिन ब्रह्म में विलीन हो सके।

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

श्री राम लहाय : क्या मैं प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहिबा से जान सकूंगा कि वह स्वतः अभूज-माढ़ के बारे में जांच करेंगी? बस्तर का जो पिछड़ा हुआ इलाका है उसके बारे में कृपा करके जानकारी प्राप्त करेगी कि वहाँ की क्या हालत है?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : जी हाँ, देखूंगी।

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Sir, very conspicuously mentioned is the word 'snake-charmers' in this question. It has long been associated with our con-trymen. May I know whether there are snake-charmers in other countries also and, if so, what is the percentage of snake-charmers in India and those in other countries?

(No reply)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*183. [The questioners (Shrimati Lalitha (Kajagopalan) and Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Tatwar) were absent. For answer, vide col. 1438 Infra.]

ABSORPTION OF RETRENCHED E.C.OS.

*184. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a number of officers and start of the civilian departments joined emergency commissions after keeping their lien on the civilian post;

(b) whether such persons have been absorbed on their civilian posts on being relieved from the emergency commissions; and

(c) Whether any cases have come to the notice of the Defence Ministry where civilian departments have refused to take back such people who have been relieved from emergency commissions, if so, what steps have been taken by Government to help them get back their jobs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the release orders issued by Army Hqrs. a paragraph is included

laying down that in the case of officers who held a lien on a civil appointment, the Officers Commanding Units, immediately on receipt of the release orders, will ensure that the Head of the Civil Department concerned is informed about the release of the officer and the date of release and obtain posting orders for the officer under release. While Government are aware that some of the released officers of this category have been absorbed in their Civil Departments, they have no information as to how many of them have been absorbed and how many did not like to go back to their civil departments.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether any machinery has been set up in the Defence Ministry to keep track of these retrenched ECOs and to see that they are absorbed in their initial posts and do not wander on the streets because the departments refuse to take them back?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The orders issued by the Home Ministry to the State Governments are very clear that regarding these officers and men who have taken to the Emergency Commission, their seniority, their pay scales and various other things have to be kept in view. So far the Defence Ministry has not received any information that these people have been refused by their State Governments after they have been released from the Headquarters.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : I wanted to know categorically from the Defence Minister whether they have any machinery to keep track of these officers or they have no touch with these officers and they have to pilot their way by themselves.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The DGR in the Army Headquarters who is also associated with the Defence Ministry has been placed in charge of this work and the ECOs who have not qualified themselves for permanent absorption as Permanent Commissioned Officers, their cases are processed for

absorption in other walks of life by the DGR which is headed by a very senior officer.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: A large number of young Emergency Commission Officers have been recently demobbed and they are really on the streets. The Government says that they informed the State Governments. But may I cite an example to show that the Central Government themselves do not care for these Emergency Commission Officers? And large frustration has taken place. In this respect, I have got a recent example of a relative of General Thorat who has fought in NEFA border. He had been demobbed and he went to the Indian Oil Corporation in Bombay. He stayed there for two months. He contacted the DGR as stated by the Defence Minister. But ultimately my co-operative had to provide him with a job. I have done it in the national interest. I want to know from the Government as to what arrangement they are going to make for these large number of young persons. There is much frustration in their minds and they may not want to serve the country.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am grateful to the hon. Member for taking such interest and I can assure him that there are other people also in our country who are taking similar interest like this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know how many civilian employees of various Governments in the country were given Emergency Commissions, how many of them were absorbed and given regular Commissions, how many of them have been demobbed and how many of them have been provided with their previous jobs?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Because figure work is involved in this, therefore I would like to have a little more notice for answering this. But to acquaint the hon. Member about the order of figures—they may not be exact to the last point I would say that out of the number that has been already released so far, about a little over 900 have been absorbed in permanent Commissions; a little over 600

have been given alternative employment in the Border Security Force, in the NCC and in Several other departments. This brings the total to about 50 per cent of the number which has been released in the first batch. About 1,500 of them are those who have been released, and who have not found alternative employment. But about 50 per cent, have been given either permanent Commissions or alternative appointments. The House will kindly appreciate that these officers whose service we greatly value, were recruited for a specific purpose, namely, for the emergency period. They knew at that time that they were not to be permanently absorbed. But still in view of the response from them and in view of the fact that they served the country during a difficult period, we are very anxious that we should do something to rehabilitate them, and our efforts are continuing in the Central Government, the State Governments and also with the private sector.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Sir, I think, after the explanation given by the Defence Minister, I have got only one thing to say and that is this that even now you are having fresh recruitment. Will you also consider these persons who are being retrenched? As you yourself have said, these people gave service at a very critical hour.

The other thing is that I know those who have had a lien some difficulties have arisen in their cases regarding seniority and other things. May I, through you, know from the hon. Defence Minister what steps he is taking with the different States to see that no injustice is done to them?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : with regard to the first part, I would like to say that the cases of the Emergency Commissioned Officers for absorption in permanent Commissions have been reviewed by the appropriate Selection Boards and all those who made the grade have been absorbed. Whereas at the time of emergency we require larger number of persons and one is inclined generally even to soft-pedal the regou'rs of standards, in normal j times in the interest of keeping our |

Army strong and young it is necessary that there should be no deviation from these standards.

With regard to those who have not made the grade we have, as I have already stated, made offers to absorb them in other organisations and also in the State Governments.

The third point that is asked by the hon. Member is very relevant, that we should continue to impress upon the State Governments the desirability of absorbing as many of them as they can. That is precisely what we are doing. I have myself written to several Chief Ministers. We will continue this effort.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rajnarain.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् आपने मुझे बुलाया और ये लोग खड़े हो कर बोल रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a habit here.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : ... is it not a fact that several young officers who came forward and responded to the call of the country in 1962...

AN HON. MEMBER: And also 1965.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : ... hundreds of them have not been again re-employed in their original services, and those who have not been in service prior to their being selected for Commission, they are now age-barred? May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister what efforts are being made to give priority to these young officers to be absorbed either in the Military or in private services, because these young officers who came forward and risked their lives are loitering in the streets with frustration? Simply to say that we are making efforts is not enough. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that all those who were in the Emergency Commission shall be provided employment either in the Military or in government services or in the private sector and the Government shall give them priority, that it will not allow any feeling of frustration to be created in this

country in the minds of such youngsters who came forward to sacrifice their lives for the motherland?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There are two parts of the question. There is that category of E.C.O.s who held some employment in the civil or Armed Forces or Police before they were selected for the grant of Emergency Commission. All those officers who have not been absorbed in the permanent set-up are given the post that they originally held, and that post is fully protected. No case has come to our notice where an officer who held an appointment in the civil or in the Army on reversion has been refused that post which he originally occupied. It is quite another thing—I will be quite fair to them—that they, probably, by virtue of having enjoyed higher emoluments and status are disinclined to go back to the original post which in the very nature of circumstances is a lower one.

About the second point, I cannot give any assurance that each and every one of them will be absorbed but every effort will be made to provide them. It will not be realistic to give any blanket assurance.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : Mr. Chairman ..

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is indeed a very serious matter. Fortunately the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, both are present here. I have met several Commissioned Officers who are just loitering in the streets of Poona and Kolhapur. They should discuss amongst themselves and give an assurance that those who came forward at the call of the motherland shall be necessarily absorbed. In that direction may I request the hon. Prime Minister to consider whether or not they are in a position to give that much categorical assurance to this House, to our young officers who fought so bravely?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the whole Government is fully seized of this matter and whatever statement I have made is on behalf of the Government. We must face facts in a realistic manner. Where-

as I feel that there is some emotion, the hon. Member merely by shouting aloud...

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Defence Minister should withdraw his words.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: He should withdraw his words.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, it is not my intention in any way to say anything which may not be liked by the hon. Members. May be, I did not choose a good word that those hon. Members who try to give the impression by their forceful way of presentation that they are more solicitous of the well-being ...

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, why does he make an allegation ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has stated that he never meant it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I have a submission to make. I am very sorry if you see a feeling of emotion on this matter. But are we going to take lessons from the Chair or from the hon. Minister?—We are not going to take lessons from the hon. Minister. We are not going to learn Parliamentary decorum from him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, generosity is good. But in reply to a question to say that an hon. Member was shouting aloud and all that, it is not for the Minister to speak like that? Do they think ...

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would like to say that this was not in my mind at all because I have the greatest admiration for Mr. Dharia and Mr. Chandra Shekhar. They are my colleagues. I am the last person to say anything which should in any way be taken amiss. I would like to say very categorically that what I wanted to convey was ...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Are you sorry?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no question of being sorry. What I am urging is (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He expressed his sorrow. And one need not always say, "I am very sorry". You should take a thing in the spirit in which it is spoken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He said, "Do not shout".

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा एक वैधानिक प्रश्न है। अगर आप प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर का जल्दी निबटारा कर दिया करें तो मामला साफ हो जाय। क्या "शाउटिंग" शब्द असंसदीय है? मैं आप की रुखिग चाहूंगा कि अगर "शाउटिंग" शब्द असंसदीय है तो "शाउटिंग" शब्द को वापस करने के लिये और ज्यादा शाउटिंग क्यों हो रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You leave it to me.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have served this House long enough. I am very sorry if my expression has in any way upset the feelings of any person. I would like to say at the same time that my object was that it is a little unfair to me that an impression should be created as if I am less solicitous about the welfare and rehabilitation of E.C.Os than those who moved by good intentions, are trying to say that we are not doing enough. Let us discuss the whole question in a dispassionate atmosphere. The officers who were recruited as Emergency Commission Officers knew at the time of their recruitment that they are not coming forward in a permanent manner. If it were a case in which they had been recruited on a permanent basis and had been granted permanent Commission, then it would have been quite another thing if retrenchment had to be resorted to, to cut down or reduce their job. The situation is different and the considerations also are different. But this officer, from the time of his recruitment, knew that he is coming forward for a shorter period. There is a limit to governmental commitment. At the same time, as I said, we are anxious that those who make the grade should get permanent Commission. But in the case of those who have not made a grade we should make every effort that in the berth that they

occupied before they had been recruited as Emergency Commission Officers, they should be absorbed. Thirdly, there is a certain reservation which has been made by the various State Governments and the Central Government and there is a limited competition for filling those posts. That also is another effort that is being made. Fourthly, even outside that, the Directorate-General of Rehabilitation in the Ministry of Defence is processing their cases for absorption in the private sector, and one of the hon. Members has said that one officer was accommodated in a certain co-operative organisation. Now these are the various spheres in which they can be absorbed and this assurance should be enough. There cannot be any blanket assurance about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

AIR BASES IN PESHAWAR

*185. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the military and air bases in Peshawar have been taken over by the United States Government on payment by them to Pakistan of 1,000 million dollars a year as stated by the "Tribune" of Ceylon;

(b) if so, what action in this behalf has been taken by the Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that U-2 planes are based in Peshawar;

(d) if so, whether these planes have flown over the territories of India; and

(e) whether they still do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) The Government of India came across Press reports on July 21, 1967, stating that Pakistan had reached a new agreement with the United States under which the U.S. Government will continue to keep its military bases at at Badber near Peshawar on certain agreed terms.

On the same day, the U.S. charge d' I Affaires in New Delhi informed the