

SHRI D. THENGARI: Apart from Bombay, what other ports are found suitable for the construction of this warship?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Bombay is the only place where we intend to manufacture this.

RECRUITMENT OF BHILS TO THE ARMY

*343. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which recruitment to the army obtains among the hill tribes; and

(b) whether the Bhil Corps of the British days still exists in our Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The meaning of 'hill tribes' is not clear. No tribes have been classified as hill tribes. Recruitment in the Army is open to all classes of people, irrespective of their place of residence.

(b) No, Sir.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायेंगे कि भील जाति पहाड़ों पर रहने वाली है और विशेषकर राणा प्रताप के जमाने में उनका बड़ा नाम था और इनकी सेना बहुत पुरानी है, ऐसी स्थिति में ब्रिटिश के जमाने में भी भील कोल कर के एक स्पेशल विंग रहता था तो क्या हमारे यहाँ भी ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था है ?

श्री वाई० बी० चव्हाण : यह कई सालों पहले की बात है लेकिन ब्रिटिश रेजीम में वह बन्द कर दिया गया, अभी तो ऐसी व्यवस्था नहीं है लेकिन सभी जनता को, सभी जातियों को सेना में आने की सहूलियत है।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायेंगे कि सेना में भर्ती होने के लिये कुछ निश्चित बातें हैं, यह प्रतिबन्ध है कि यह उम्र होनी चाहिये, यह हाइट

होनी चाहिए और भीलो की आर्थिक स्थिति कमजोर होने के कारण उनकी शारीरिक अवस्था, ऊंचाई या वेस्ट की चौड़ाई वगैरह कम होती है तो ऐसी स्थिति में उनकी विशेष स्थिति का लाभ लेने की दृष्टि से क्या उनके लिये कुछ रिलैक्सेशन कर के उन्हें भी सेना में भर्ती होने की मुविधा दी जाएगी ?

श्री वाई० बी० चव्हाण : सेना के बारे में कुछ रिलैक्सेशन करने की सोचना मैं ठीक नहीं मानता।

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: During the earlier period of the British regime, these hill tribes, the Scheduled Castes had formed a major part of the British Army, and later on they were gradually excluded, especially from 1857, from the Army. So much so, now these tribes are completely debarred from the Army. Although the Defence Minister has said that there is no distinction made between martial and non-martial people, yet in practice we find that the people of the lower castes and the Scheduled Tribes are not recruited into the Army in the combatant ranks as would appear from the figures supplied through this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have expressed an opinion, you have not raised any question. So . . .

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: What I want to know is whether these people will be recruited in large numbers into the Army. We want to make it a truly national Army. It is not so now. It is the monopoly of some privileged classes.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I would like to say with all the emphasis at my command that the statement made that the Scheduled Castes or other people are not taken into the Army, that they are excluded, is absolutely incorrect and is rather a misleading statement. I would like to say . . .

(Interruptions).