

SHRI A. C. GUHA: That is now under appeal. It is *sub-judice* actually.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: But is it not a fact that the appeal has been rejected by the Supreme Court?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: This particular item has been rejected, but the case is not yet decided.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But has not the appeal on this point been rejected?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Yes.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Does it not show that reasons on which the Government's appeal was based were not sound and that they were injurious to the interests of the employees?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, the appeal has been rejected more or less on technical grounds; anyhow when the appeal is rejected, Government have to abide by the decision or act according to the Act.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the banks which do not operate in at least two States have been excluded from the operation of this Award?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It is a matter of public knowledge and the hon. Member can refer to the Award, I do not remember all the terms of the Award.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is it not a fact that it was not in the interest of promotion of rural banking but for denying to a large number of bank employees the benefits under the Award that the appeal was filed before the Appellate Tribunal?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

\*353. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3035.]

#### SELECTION TESTS FOR LOWER GRADE CRAFTSMEN IN I.A.F.

\*354. COL. C. S. R. ANGRE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state whether periodical tests and competitive examinations are held to pick out the best talent from among the lower grade craftsmen in the Technical Branch of the Indian Air Force; and if so, what have been the results of such tests and examinations?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : Yes, Sir. The results are satisfactory. Candidates pass roughly between 30 to 98 per cent, in different grades of technical trade tests.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it a fact that previously the T. A. that used to be given to these craftsmen has been withdrawn after their first appearance for examination?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, I have no information about that, for I never envisaged that this sort of a supplementary question would come up.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How many such lower grade men have been promoted to the Technical Branch of the Indian Air Force?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: As soon as they pass the examination they are always promoted and it is difficult to say how many such promotions have taken place, unless a separate question is put down.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Invariably are they all promoted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: ..... whether there are vacancies or not?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: As soon as a vacancy occurs he is promoted. He is kept ready for promotion.

SHRI B. GUPTA: What is the time lag between the passing of the examination and the occurrence of the vacancy?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: It all depends on the vacancy being found.