

•379. [The questioner (Shrimati IPvshpaHetta Das) was absent.]

SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE

•375. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Will 'the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to -state:

(a) what is the method of selection of officers to the Foreign Service;

(b) whether any periodic checks are made on the ability and suitability of the officers selected; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what is the machinery for making such checks?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : (a) Selection of officers for the Indian Foreign Service is made on the results of the annual combined jcompetitive examination held by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service, etc.

<b) Yes.

(c) A confidential report is recorded annually on the work and conduct of an officer during each year and this enables the Government to judge the suitability and ability of the officer.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, may I know if there, have been any exceptions to this rule of selection by the Union Public Service Commission before, and if so, how many were they, and the reasons why such persons were exempted?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: When the Foreign Service was started five or six years ago, the Special Recruitment Board was constituted. That Board took people from the other services—transferred from other services; and some were recruited directly also by that Board—a few, I could not get the number. But we found

that the Board ceased to function when this normal procedure started.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, may I know how many such selections were made before this procedure of Union Public Service Commission was adopted?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This procedure was adopted right from the beginning. But in addition to this procedure, because we had to make a start and we had to select people within a specified time, we could not wait for the long distance procedure of the Union Public Service Commission. Therefore, in addition to that Union Public Service Commission procedure we had the special procedure for some time. And they took people from three categories. One was the normal administrative services; the second was Defence; and the third was outsiders usually engaged in educational and like services. If the hon., Member wants exact figures, I can get them. I haven't got them here.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the approval of the U. P. S. C. was obtained after such selection in all these cases by the Special Selection Board's

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, I do not think so. It could not have been. The idea of taking their approval would have meant delay in the achievement of that very purpose which it was intended to avoid. I might here mention to the House that the present method of selection for specialised services by the Union Public Service Commission is a matter which has been considered and is being considered as not wholly satisfactory. The Public Service Commission does its work exceedingly well for what might be called the normal administrative services. They are used to it. They are not so used to specialised services. And if the hon. Member has an opportunity to go through the Appleby Report, he might perhaps get my point.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: It was not circulated.