

(c) Yes.

(d) Offences under sections 143, 447 and 427, Indian Penal Code.

SHRI B. RATH: When was he arrested?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I have given the answer. The occurrence was on the 10th February 1953, and the arrest may have followed a day or two later.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are those sections referred to? We are not able to follow what they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not lawyers, and they do not know what these sections 143, 447 and 427 are.

DR. K. N. KATJU: My knowledge is also getting rusty but I think that 143 is unlawful assembly and the other two are creating mischief and committing criminal trespass.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Municipal Committee took a decision that the Municipal Commissioner themselves should supervise the clearance and conservancy work in their respective wards and that this gentleman was arrested while he was supervising such work by the order of the Magistrate?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is under investigation. We cannot have questions raised whether he was rightly arrested or wrongly arrested.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Is it under judicial investigation?

DR. K. N. KATJU: The case is pending in a court of law.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: But the facts can be stated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The man was arrested and he was charged under these sections, criminal trespass and such other activities.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that several political workers were arrested by the order of the same Magistrate on fantastic charges and these charges could not be substantiated in any court of law?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has nothing to do with this. It is a different story altogether.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Are not political offenders usually arrested under these three dangerous sections?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No insinuations.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: I want to know whether the hon. Minister knows—he can collect statistics regarding such cases—how many political offenders are arrested under these sections, unlawful assembly, criminal trespass and other things. I want to know whether it is a fact that the number is large, and, if so, in how many cases these sections have been invoked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are arrested under these sections because they indulge in such activities.

SHRI B. RATH: Then why are some of them let off?

(No reply.)

*540. [Postponed to 13th May 1953.]

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

*541. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Emergency Commissioned Officers were recruited to the Armed Forces during the World War II;

(b) how many of them have since been granted permanent Commissions;

(c) how many of them were granted temporary Commissions for varying period;

(d) in how many cases their services were dispensed with at the end of hostilities;

(e) how many such Emergency Commissioned Officers are still in service; and

(f) what gratuity, pension or other reliefs are being granted to those whose services are being dispensed with?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA):

(a) 15,510.

(b) 3,203.

(c) 419.

(d) (i) 6,500 (including Pakistan elements) upto the 14th August 1947.

(ii) 1,248 from the 15th August 1947 to the 31st March 1953.

(e) 1,094.

(f) (i) Soldiers, who were already serving on regular engagements prior to the grant of an Emergency Commission to them during the last War are eligible for pensionary concessions as regular ICOs., provided they complete, at the time of retirement, 15 years or more qualifying service for pension. In the case of those who complete 10 to 14 years qualifying service at the time of retirement, the officers concerned have the option of electing a special scale of pension ranging from Rs. 75 p.m. to Rs. 135 p.m. instead of service gratuity.

(ii) Emergency Commissioned Officers recruited directly are not, under the terms of their commission, entitled to any service pension or gratuity. The question of giving them a service gratuity is now under consideration. They have, however, been granted a special gratuity for their War service from the 3rd September 1939 to the 15th August 1946, known as War gratuity.

(iii) Various concessions have been given to the released ECOs in the matter of securing employment in civil Government Departments

PROF. G. RANGA: With reference to the answer given to part (e), are we to understand that this 1000 and odd Emergency Commissioned Officers were recruited during the last war and are still kept only on the non-permanent emergency basis?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: 1094 are still working as Emergency Commissioned Officers in the army and they have not been given permanent or Short Service Commissions.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is there any time-limit for these people being kept on the emergency basis in view of the fact that they had been recruited 10 or 12 years ago?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: These people were recruited during the war. As I said, 15,510 officers were recruited and out of them 1094 are still in the army but this is due to abnormal strength of the army. The normal peace-time strength of the army has not been finally determined.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is there any indication as to when these people will be taken into the regular service?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: All those who were eligible were offered Regular Commissions. Many concessions were given and 3203 officers were granted permanent Commissions. Those who did not fully qualify for permanent Commissions could not be granted the same.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Was there any test conducted for the purpose of determining as to who can be granted permanent Commissions?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Certain rules were framed for the purpose. Age groups are always the main consideration. There were certain other things such as educational qualifications which were taken into consideration. I cannot give you the details but definite rules were laid down and officers who qualified within those rules were granted permanent or Short Service Commission.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: The hon. Minister stated that in view of the fact that the strength of the army has not yet been fixed, a certain number of officers will have to be under Emergency Commissions. While I under-

stand that, may I draw his attention to the undesirability of keeping so many young men in a permanent state of suspense in so far as their careers are concerned?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I don't know what the hon Member means to suggest, or what could possibly be done. We are in a fluid state and so long as that condition exists, the stable strength of the army officers cannot be fixed. It depends mainly upon the normal strength of the army. These officers however have been given many concessions for absorption in other Government Departments. Commutation of age has been allowed for finding them employment in other Government Departments. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been requested to exert its influence to find suitable employment for them as and when they are released, with banks, insurance companies and other industrial concerns. Everything possible is being done.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The question is with regard to such Emergency Commissioned Officers who are still in service and as to what is to happen to them. They have been recruited during the war and the war was over long ago and they are still considered as Emergency Officers.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: As I said, concessions have been given to the persons who have left the Emergency Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is not in regard to those who have left. The question is with regard to those who are still holding temporary Emergency Commissions. They have been holding these Commissions for nearly 10 or 12 years, ever since the war broke out. What do you propose to do with regard to confirming them? You said that the conditions were fluid. I am glad they are fluid. They should never become static.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There is no proposal at present to confirm these

officers or to take them in Regular Commissions.

PROF. G. RANGA: If and when these people are sent out, when Government thinks that the emergency is over and their services are not necessary, will they be given any concessions by way of pension or provident fund or any of the various other things that might help them to get themselves adjusted to normal life again for some years?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: That is what I meant. The same concessions that were granted to other Emergency Commissioned Officers will be extended to these officers also. In addition we are thinking of giving them a gratuity for each completed year of service but the matter is pending with the Finance Ministry. I can't commit myself at this stage.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is there any class of officers known as Short Service Officers?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Yes, there is.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the number that has been kept for Short Service Commissions?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The Commission is granted from one year at a time to some 3 or 5 years and that is extended from year to year or after a lapse of 3 or 5 years as the case may be.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Are they entitled for any gratuity for each year of service?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Yes, and that matter is also under discussion. We have represented to the Finance Ministry that there should be some more liberal grant of gratuities to these officers.

DR. S. K. BHUYAN: With regard to the released officers, is there any obligation on their part to rejoin the armed forces when called upon to do so?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I require notice for that.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: I want to know since the Government are not likely to take a decision regarding the number of officers to be kept in the course of the foreseeable future, what is the objection to these officers being given Short Service Commissions of 3 or 5 years so that additional privileges may accrue to those officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action. Next question.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Sir, it will be desirable if you permit him to answer this question. It will satisfy many Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is suggested to you that you should give them Short Service Commissions.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Many of these officers have already been given Short Service Commissions. Certain rules were framed and all those who could not be given Permanent Regular Commissions were given Short Service Commissions provided they qualified according to rules.

*542. [Postponed to 13th May 1953.]

9 A.M.

DISCHARGE OF WORKERS OF THE METAL AND STEEL FACTORY, ICHHAPUR

*543. **SHRI B. RATH:** Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the management of the Metal and Steel Factory, Ichhapur has served notices of discharge on 65 workers of the Stores Section thereof; if so, for what reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): 53 (not 65) workers of the Metal and Steel Factory Ichhapur have been served with one month's notice of termination of employment. These workers were taken over from the Iron & Steel Controller in June 1951 with

the Depot when the Belur Stores Depot was transferred to the charge of the Director General of Ordnance Factories. It was all along intended that the store in this Depot should be transferred to other Ordnance Factories so that the Depot could be closed down and vacated. The Depot having been practically cleared of the stores is due to close down by the end of May 1953 and the workmen rendered surplus had to be given discharge notices as there is no possibility of absorbing them in other Ordnance Factories.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that the general policy has been during the last 2 or 3 years to retrench more workers in the Ordnance Factories and this is a part of that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a fact that the Government policy has been to retrench more workers in the Ordnance Factories during the last 2 or 3 years and this is an illustration of that?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: It is not so. This thing has been dealt with at great length in this House and I don't accept the insinuation of the hon. Member. The particular Depot about which the question has been put did not really belong to the Ordnance factory at all. The depot and its building are the property of the Railways. There were surplus stores belonging to the Iron & Steel Controller lying there. We took over those stores which have now been removed. This labour (numbering 53 or 74 actually) was recruited by the previous authority on a temporary basis. As there is no work for them now, they are being retrenched.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: What is the length of the service that these retrenched employees have put in?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: We took over this depot in June 1951. Before that date it did not belong to us. There were surplus stores which the