

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

ordnance factories could utilise. We took it over from the Iron and Steel Controller and removed these stores to our ordnance factories. We have nothing to do with this depot.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: How much service have these retrenched workers put in? Is it short-term or long-term, 10 years, 15 years or six months?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: As far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, they were with us for two years—from 1951. Before that period they were probably for a short period with the Iron and Steel Controller.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Cannot the hon. Minister give us the length of service put in by them—the total service?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I am not aware of the total length of their service.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how many ordnance depots the Defence Department has got and how many workers are employed in those depots?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: That is a very wide question. The question here relates only to a particular depot which was temporarily taken over by us.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Are the Government aware that these retrenched workers numbering about 53 could have been easily absorbed if they were retained as a result of or due to natural vacancies occurring in these depots?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There was no possibility of absorbing them. This matter has been examined. There were, in fact, more than 53 workers and some of them have been absorbed.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that these workers were in the employ of the

Defence Department before they were transferred to these posts in 1951?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: No, Sir. They were in the employment of the Iron and Steel Controller, when we took over this depot temporarily.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Is the service of these workers taken over by the Defence Department from other Government Departments not counted from the very beginning of their service?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There appears to be some apprehension. If we examine the break-up, of this number, many of them were unskilled labour employed at the depot—about 52 or 53 of them—and also other such as drivers, peons and a few clerks. As many of them as could be absorbed by other ordnance factories have been so absorbed. Moreover, this labour could not be transferred to far-off factories, on account of small wages or monthly salaries that they used to get.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Will the Government consider the question of granting some retrenchment gratuity to these employees if they are found to have put in five years' service or more?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I am not aware of the length of their service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you consider the question of granting retrenchment gratuity to some of them?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, that does not arise in case of temporary employees.

TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN UNIVERSITIES

*544. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on the teaching of English in the Universities was convened by Government this year;