

these efforts succeeded in a large measure too. Apart from that, the old I.N.A. Enquiry Committee, the Relief Committee, subsisted. It is true it did not function very adequately because of numerous other matters ; but it subsisted, and throughout this period, it has given help, financial help or help in employment. There is still an office in Delhi which tries to do its best. Hardly a week goes by when, as Chairman of that Committee, I do not get requests for help to people, and help is given to those who want it.

Another factor has to be remembered when this Resolution is taken into consideration. After the partition of India a fairly large proportion of the I.N.A. personnel went to Pakistan. Not only were they in Pakistan, but I regret to say, they took arms against India in Kashmir. Some of the fairly well-known officers of the Indian National Army were some of the more important leaders of the raid on Kashmir. So, we leave them out, naturally. The hon. Member presumably does not expect us to bring them into the Indian Army,—the Officers and the men in Pakistan ; not only those who are in Pakistan but who actually fought against India, against the Indian troops. So far as the others are concerned, there were a series of decisions here. Ultimately, there was not—we put aside what the British Government had done—that is before we came into the scene, we put that aside completely—the hon. Member might have been perfectly right if he were describing what the British Government did—any kind of stigma attached to them, and opened out all these avenues of service including service in the Army to them. We could not take them *en bloc* into the Army for a variety of reasons connected with the Army,—not connected with politics, not connected with any stigma on them, but connected with the Army itself,—because, after a large gap of period, all kinds of difficulties arose. The Army is a delicate instrument. The Army at that

time was actually being reduced because it was a War Army. It was being reduced in numbers and demobilisation was going on on the one hand. Apart from that, persons who had been out of the picture for 6 or 7 or 8 years and who, normally, would have been out of the Army by that period, persons who had lost touch with the growth of the Army and many things—it is not easy to fit them in without upsetting the set-up of the Army. So, the door was completely open to them but, they were to be considered as individuals, not as a group. We gave those—I do not know what privileges, I had better read out—large gratuities which are given to people when they leave the Army, pensions, etc., etc., I cannot say exactly but, apart from pensions, etc., I believe a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs was provided for under the Army Estimates for this purpose, because technically there was some difficulty under the Army Regulations. So, we got over that technical difficulty and provided this sum, apart from sums that were given to them under the Rules;

Apart from giving these,—pension, gratuities and the rest—we left the door open for them to come into the Army—in some cases to the Army undoubtedly, some officers and some others,—not very many. As far as I remember, I do not know, because, as I said, there was the question of the age of the average soldier, and, also he was out of touch and to take him at this stage was not proper and so we paid him all kinds of pensions. There was no bar and, as I said, Sir, a very large number of them were taken in the Home Guards, in the Police Services, in the Armed Constabulary and, some of them are occupying very responsible positions today ; some are in the Diplomatic Service also and some are in other Services and, very very far from doing anything that might be considered to have flown from a stigma, they have been looked upon with honour and respect. We have tried to encourage and help them; it may be that our help has not been as.