

[Sardar S. S. Majithia.] that this is not a fact. As I said earlier, we have changed and now they are—if you will permit me, to put it, so—the most dutiful servants of this Government which represents the people of this country.

Coming to some of the points Dr. Gour referred, to the presiding officer, who is a military official, and has no knowledge of civil requirements. If he had said that about twenty years ago, I possibly would have accepted his arguments. But today, your military men are all Indians, fully national and patriotic, and to say that these Indians cannot understand the requirements of the civil population, is very far from the truth. They live amongst them, they come from amongst them, and then to dub them as being ignorant of the conditions from which they come, is just to shut your eyes to the facts. I need not dilate on that very much.

The other point which he raised was about democratising the bodies. As I said Sir, there are certain difficulties regarding them, and I am very grateful to my friend Shri Govinda Reddy, for clarifying the situation to a great extent, and therefore, I need not waste the time of this House on that point. I will only say that these cantonments are the result. They have sprung up because we need them. By 'we', I mean the country. It is not that they have a haphazard growth. They come up because we want our troops to be stationed at a particular spot. Along with the cantonments, you have got the civilian population coming and settling there and helping the military personnel, and therefore this point should not be lost sight of that it is to the military personnel first that we should give primary consideration in cantonments.

Next, coming to my hon. friend Shri Saksena, I can assure him that there is no difference between himself and me. If I may refresh his memory, the military personnel always think themselves to be the servants of the country and by "the country", the people are also

included. There is no question of differentiation and they have come to the aid of the civilian population not once, but so many times. They could come effectively to their aid.

As regards my friend opposite, Shri Rath from Orissa, I can say that he was harping on the same old distress of the military officers which I have already replied to. Apart from that, he mentioned certain points which are also relevant and I may add that with regard to the accession of the areas, Government has already considered that and very soon will come to a decision on that point.

That leads me to my friend who spoke last, I think, Shri Deogirikar. He mentioned about certain areas. The main point he referred to was the difference in taxation between Poona and Kirkee. There are various aspects to be considered between Poona and Kirkee. It is entirely a different matter and has to be looked into. There are various things which come up while settling these differences and it is not such a simple matter as that. Besides these points, I find there is nothing else which I should refer to now.

SHRI B. RATH : Sir, what about widening the scope of the Committee to consider the whole Act itself ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

Shri Bodh Ram Dube,
Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand,
Shri Somnath P. Deva,
Shri T.S. Pattabiraman,
Shri Braja Kishore Prasad Sinha»
Shri M.H.S. Nihal Singh,
Shri Shyam Dhar Misra,
Shri Braj Bihari Sharma,
Shri Col. Peer Mohammad,
Shri Mohammed Valiulla,
Shri S. Chattanatha Karayallar.
Shri Ram Kirpal Singh,
Shri Bhupesh Gupta,

Shri Kishen Chand,
Shri Harishchandra Mathur,
Shri P.S. Rajagopal Naidu,
Shri Hriday Nath Kunzru, and
Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (the mover)

with instructions to report by nth December
1952.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I
announce that Sardar Surjit Singh
Majithia will be the Chairman of the
Committee.

Monday, the 8th December 1952,
had been allotted for non-official Bills.
As there are only two non-official Bills
for introduction on that day, the
Chairman has allotted the rest of the
day for official Bills.

1 P.M.

The House stands adjourned till 10-
45^A-M. on Monday, the 8th December
1952

The Council then adjourned
till a quarter to eleven of the
clock on Monday, the 8th
December 1952.