

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]

adequate as people would like it to be; it may be a little less, but, taking everything into consideration, I do submit, Sir, that we have tried to do more, and succeeded in that, for the I.N.A. personnel than we have done to any Other group or to the vast army of political sufferers in the country whose families had been shattered during the last 30 or 40 years. So that, it does pain and distress me to be accused of treating these people in this way, as though they were traitors and riot respected patriots, as though we had riot tried to help them in every way. This matter has come up repeatedly. This matter is treated as closed. Apart from everything else, whatever help might conceivably have been given, this lapse of time makes it extremely difficult to take the people back into the army after ten years. How are they to be taken back, and where? They did not fit in anywhere as soldiers. We would have to give them special training of all kinds. It simply would not work. I am referring to the Resolution as worded. It cannot to done. With the best will in the world, it cannot be done. There were those difficulties. Now, apart from undoing what the British Government had attempted to do—the stigma, etc., by classifying them into groups" and so on—I will just read out what all has been done. I am talking about the last six years. The stigma attached to the ex-I.N.A. personnel was removed and the individuals were made eligible for re-employment in the Indian army if they were otherwise suitable. Those who were re-enrolled were treated as ex-soldiers of the Indian army to all intents and purposes. In the case of officers who held commissions in the Indian army prior to their joining the I. N. A. the normal rules were relaxed. The officers too were eligible to get *de novo* permanent or short service commissions. Those officers who held permanent commissions in the Indian army were not required to appear before the Services Selection Board. A liaison officer was appointed in the Ministry of Defence to

assist the ex-I.N.A. personnel in mining employment for the personnel under the Government of India and State Governments. Individuals who had been previously dismissed or discharged were granted (1) amounts standing to their credit including deferred pay on the date of their capture by the enemy where not already paid ; (2) amount equal to three months' pay and allowances including deferred pay of the substantive or war substantive rank held at the time of the discharge or retirement; (3) service pension including muster pension and gratuity under normal rules ; (4) war gratuity and contractual gratuity under the existing rules. And in addition to all these, lump sum grants were made to those who were disabled or were dependants of those who died while serving with the I.N.A. On top of that, a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs was set apart for these concessions, and the actual expenditure on this account was Rs. 31 lakhs,

Sir, this is what was done from the Defence Ministry side. You will see that everything possible was done excepting taking them back *en masse* into the Indian army, which at that time, for a large variety of reasons was found very difficult, and, I submit, correctly found to be difficult. It was not a question of their patriotism being challenged. It was a question of getting people into the army who were particularly suited for the army at that time. You can not play about with the army. And normally the door was open. And what was done I have mentioned. A great deal was done, and to some extent it was done with the co-operation and help of the I.N.A. officers and men themselves. In fact there was a committee of their own people who used to advise us and even now it is going on, and even now I am in charge of a fund to give relief to ex-I.N.A. officers and men and hardly a day passes by when some case does not come up recommended by the I.N.A. officers themselves to me, and I deal with the matter, and normally relief is given.