

SHRI B. RATH : How many officers, in the interest of public service, have been allowed to remain in one station for more than three or four years ? What is the percentage ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Well, Sir, I have not got the number.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is there any time limit for any such extension ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, they are kept there only in the interests of the service.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is it not a fact that when an officer is appointed to a particular station, there is a time limit to start with—initial time limit ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, Sir, there is no hard and fast rule and if that means anything else I do not know.....

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Do the Government believe in these people dying in harness ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

VISIT OF U.S. AIR FORCE MISSION

*51. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a U.S. Air Force Mission visited this country and inspected a number of Indian Air Force installations ;

(b) if so, who were the members of this Mission; and

(c) what was the purpose of their visit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):

(a), (b) and (c). No such Mission visited the Indian Air Force installations. Presumably, the hon. Member has in mind the visit of Colonel Sheldon and two other officers of the U. S. Military Assistance Group, Thailand, in August last. These officers visited

India and Ceylon for sight-seeing at the invitation extended to them in a personal capacity by the then Chief of Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Air Force, who was on a goodwill mission in Thailand in 1951. During this visit they saw some of our Air Force centres, as well.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it the practice that when our Indian Army officers go abroad, they can extend personal invitations to officers of foreign countries ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Well, Sir, if they happen to be friends, naturally.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it necessary that when they come to our country they should visit our army installations ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I said, Sir, when they are invited in a personal capacity, they come here as guests of that officer concerned and the State is in no way connected with that visit.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : When the officers of the Government, especially the army officers of the Government invite foreign officers, is it not in the interests of security that Government should take note of it and see that these things do not happen ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : The security of the country is always the first consideration of the Government as it should be and the security is in no way affected.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that it is a part of the American War Department to study these installations in various countries ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : That is not a fact, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it not in pursuance of the speech made

by the American Ambassador in June last that these officers were invited and allowed to see our army installations ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : I am not aware of any speeches made by the American Ambassador, but if the hon. Member wants information on the point, I suggest him to put a question to the External Affairs Ministry.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How is it that the Defence Ministry is unaware of the speech of such an important officer as the American Ambassador ?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : Our boys in the Army are patriotic enough not to be dissuaded by.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND : I just wanted for elucidation to know whether the spelling of 'sight' is *sie* or *sighi*.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : May I know whether the officer concerned—I mean the officer responsible for extending personal invitation in his personal capacity—was within his right to issue that type of invitation ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Of course.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : What are the rules of the Government for the guidance of these officers so far as strategic matters are concerned ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : As I have said, Sir, the security of the State is the first consideration and these officers do not act in a manner which affects the security of the State in any way. But so far as their private life is concerned, I am afraid the Government cannot have any control over that.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Is the officer on duty supposed to be indulging in private affairs ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Well Sir, you cannot get over the fact that there are times when he attends to his official duties and there are also times when he is not on duty.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Will the Government consider the desirability of shutting out these officers—whether they are Americans or Russians or any other foreign officers—having access to our military installations ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a suggestion for future action.

POLICE SEARCHES IN CUTTACK

*52. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : (a) Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether investigation carried on by the Special Investigation Department regarding allegations against Eastern Mercantile Corporation of Cuttack has been completed ;

(b) If so, will the Minister please refer to his reply to starred question No. 66 in the first session of the Council of States and supply the information asked for in that question.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) The preliminary inquiries have been completed.

(b) Since the action of the police in conducting the searches is *sub judice* before the Orissa High Court, it would not be proper to furnish any further details.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, we ask for the protection of the Chair. Last time when the question was put, it was under investigation. Now the investigation has been completed, and the Government say that the case is *sub judice*. But the matter which has been referred to the High Court is the validity or otherwise of the searches. I think the Chair should give us protection to elicit the information. We are asking for the purpose