

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it a fact that Government officers are acquiring big plots of land in the Imphal Town area on the plea that they are also refugees?

Dr. Katju: I want notice of that question.

ASSAM REGIMENT

*956. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the Assam Regiment at present; and

(b) the size to which Government propose to expand the Assam Regiment?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) It is not in the interests of security to disclose the strength of the Assam Regiment.

(b) There are no proposals to expand the Assam Regiment at present.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know how many hill people are there in the Assam Regiment?

Sardar Majithia: I have not got the break-up figures.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any special concession is shown to any of the hill tribes residing there in the matter of recruitment?

Sardar Majithia: There is no special concession.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether it is a fact that hill educated men have not been given proper facilities for serving in the Indian army and such a feeling is growing among them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Defence Ministry will come up for discussion now.

Sardar Majithia: As a matter of fact, Sir, the rejections from these hill tribes is very much less, as compared with others.

Shri G. S. Singh: Is there any difference in the pay in the Assam rifles of the officers and other ranks as compared with the Indian Army?

Sardar Majithia: No.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What is the special purpose for which these

Assam Rifles have been recruited and maintained?

Sardar Majithia: It is part of the Indian army.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Are Government aware that many educated and qualified hillmen are ready to join the Army, but they have not been taken?

Sardar Majithia: I am glad to know that they are ready to join the army and if they want to there is a need for them today.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONTRACTS OF CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS IN MILITARY CENTRES

*949. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue the contracts of civilian contractors in the Military canteens; and

(b) if so, have Government revived the services of the contractors whose contracts were earlier terminated under the policy of Government in this connection?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise?

GHATAPRABHA VALLEY PROJECT

*957. **Shri Janardhan Reddy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ramamurthi Finance Enquiry Commission has recommended that top priority should be given to the second stage of the Ghataprabha Valley project by re-adjusting, if necessary, the cost of the scheme in the Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what is the proposed estimated cost of the project; and

(c) what are the other main recommendations of the Commission regarding the scarcity areas in Bombay State?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) The Team have suggested that high priority should be given to this project but no recommendations have been made regarding