

CADETS IN THE N. D. A.

*2372. **Shri A. K. Gopalan**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many gentlemen cadets have been on the rolls of the National Defence Academy during the past three years;

(b) how many cadets have been discharged during the past 3 years and for what reasons; and

(c) after how many years of training were the cadets discharged?

The Minister of Defence (**Shri Gopalaswami**): (a) 2,348 cadets were on the rolls of the Academy during the period of three years from July 1949 to June 1952.

(b) and (c). I lay four statements on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI annexure No. 19.]

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Are the Government aware of the fact that some cadets were withdrawn after a training of 3½ years on the plea that they did not have the qualifications to make them fit as officers?

Shri Gopalaswami: Yes. There have been one or two cases where cadets were withdrawn from the Academy after a period of about three years. It is quite possible that they were withdrawn because it was considered that they would not make suitable officers in the Army.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Are Government aware of the fact that some cadets have been withdrawn on such grounds as colour, personality, lack of confidence, etc.?

Shri Gopalaswami: Quite possibly that is one of the qualifications which are required in an officer of the Army. He must have confidence. If lack of confidence is proved, then he is unfit to be an Army officer.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Also colour and personality?

Shri Gopalaswami: I do not think I have come across any cases of that sort.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, how many of these cadets are drawn from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

Shri Gopalaswami: I have no information on that point.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know if such discharge of cadets has anything to do with their political opinions?

Shri Gopalaswami: Well, Sir, I do not think they are given opportunities for expression of political opinion when they are in the Academy, but if they did express opinions which militated against the security of the State for instance action would be taken.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Have they been provided with any alternative appointments?

Shri Gopalaswami: No, Sir. I do not think the Academy undertakes it.

INDIAN AUDIT DEPARTMENT

*2373. **Shri A. K. Gopalan**: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints regarding the working of the Indian Audit Department have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) are Government aware of long delays in settlement of pension and provident fund cases in the office of the Accountant General, Bombay; and

(c) how many resignations have been received by the Government from the Bombay office, and why?

The Minister of Finance (**Shri C. D. Deshmukh**): (a) A list of the complaints is not maintained but appropriate action is taken on them.

(b) No, Sir. But some inevitable delay occurs owing to the receipt of incomplete papers and I understand that the State Government, with the assistance of the Comptroller and Auditor General, are taking steps to surmount this difficulty.

(c) None, Sir. But it is understood that, in 1951-52, 128 from the Accountant General's total subordinate staff of over 1,500 tendered their resignations to him.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether the delay in the settlement of pension and provident fund cases is due to shortage of staff in the department?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The principal causes for the delay are receipt of incomplete papers from the administrative offices, and I fear somewhat of a decline in administrative efficiency.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Does the hon. the Minister consider that the agencies which they have got for estimating the costs of production are satisfactory?