

(ii) Anguish at Vice-Presidents not being allowed to preside over the meetings of the Board in the absence of the President and Military Officers being asked to preside instead;

(iii) The number of elected members in every Board should be increased in the proportion of one elected member for every 30,000 voters. Further the number of nominated members should not be more than 5 in 'A' Class Cantonments, 4 in 'B' Class and 2 in 'C' Class, including the Health Officer and Garrison Engineer.

(iv) The term of office of elected members be raised from 3 to 5 years as in other local bodies. The President of the Board should be from the elected members and not from the Military side.

The position concerning these Resolutions is as follows:

(i) For carrying out the comprehensive amendments to the Cantonments Act, Government had set up a Task Force in December, 1972 for suggesting amendments after taking into account the representations and suggestions received from various quarters including the public M. Ps. Employees' Associations etc. In the light of the recommendations of the Task Force a comprehensive amending Bill is under preparation keeping in view the over-riding considerations of the health and security of the troops located in Cantonments the contemporary trends in municipal legislation and the need for strengthening the local administration. Further, greater delegation of powers to the Civil Area Committee has also been kept in view.

(ii) Provision is being made in the Act that in case the President is away from the Station for more than 30 days he shall cease to be the President. In such cases the Vice President would preside.

(iii) Provision is being made for maintaining parity in the numbers of elected and nominated members. This has been the practice under executive instructions since 1955.

(iv) The term of office of Board 3 members is proposed to be increased from 3 to 5 years.

(v) In view of the fact that considerations of the health, security and welfare of the Armed Forces are paramount in Cantonments, it has not been possible to accept the suggestion that the President of the Board should be an elected member and not a Military Officer.

(e) The amending Bill will be introduced in Parliament as soon as it is finalised.

Ban on providing Liquor in Parties and on Tours

145. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the Information Officers of various Ministries not to provide liquor to the parties and tours arranged by them;

(b) whether Government are aware that liquor is freely served by the Information Officers to correspondents who are on tour in the Railway Compartments; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against such Information Officers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The rules framed in respect of such press tours prohibit the serving of liquor.

(c) Does not arise.