

been prescribed to meet essential requirements;

(iv) Prior to 1948, furniture was provided for Service Officers by the M.E.S. only at those stations where hiring from the market was either impossible or expensive. Government have now assumed responsibility of providing furniture for service officers at all military stations and suitable scales have been prescribed for the purpose;

(v) Electric lighting is authorised for living accommodation for service personnel of all ranks at all stations. JCOs, Havildars and Other Ranks are authorised to use free of charge electric fans already installed in barracks and other buildings vacated by British troops. Such fans will be maintained and replaced by the MES when worn out.

Navy:

Efforts are constantly made to effect improvements in the living conditions both ashore and afloat, within the limitations of service requirements, e.g., on ships, the essential equipments take up a good amount of space, leaving little room for living quarters.

Air Force:

The Government are providing accommodation to the I.A.F. personnel as far as possible. Recreational facilities and welfare amenities are also provided.

(b) **Army:**

The amounts vary from year to year. The following amounts will give an idea of the expenditure on welfare schemes during the year 1952-53:—

(i) Amenity grants from Defence Services Estimates—Rs. 10,50,000.

(ii) Army Central Welfare Fund—Rs. 1,00,000.

(iii) Flag Day Fund—Rs. 2,68,000.

(iv) Canteen Profits—Rs. 3,57,500.

Navy—Rs. 24,117-9-6.

Air Force—Rs. 56,000.

(c) **Army:**

(i) Amenity Grants—Army HQ, HQ Commands/Officer Commanding Units.

(ii) Army Central Welfare Fund—Executive Committee at Army HQ through Command HQ and Officers Commanding Units.

(iii) Flag Day Fund—Army HQ, HQ Commands/Recruiting Officers.

(iv) Canteen Profits—Army HQ and HQ Commands.

Navy: Commanding Officers of the Ships and Establishments.

Air Force: Officers Commanding of Units assisted by Welfare Committees.

(d) Yes.

(e) In the Army, the planning and execution of welfare matters is done by the units themselves. All ranks are consulted in unit darbars. These darbars are a regular feature of Army life, at which all ranks are free to offer observations, make suggestions and represent any matters. In the other two Services representation is given by election.

CHAMAR REGIMENT

761. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a Chamar regiment in Central Defence Forces;

(b) if so, the number of soldiers recruited to it;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has been disbanded;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to recruit a fixed percentage to all Forces from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) J. C. Os. 20

Other Ranks 919

Non-combatants (enrolled) 42

(c) Yes.

(d) It was disbanded during the general demobilization which followed World War II.

(e) No. The policy of the Government of India is not to discriminate between individuals, or classes. Every one gets equal treatment.

STERLING BALANCES

762. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sterling balances due to India on the 14th August, 1947 and at the end of each financial year since then up-to-date;

(b) the major items against which these balances have been consumed;