

DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS, 1977-78—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to ask the House if I may ask the Minister of Defence to reply now, because 15 to 20 minutes do not make much difference. I will ask the Defence Minister to reply to the Debate now and the further programme can be sorted out in the Business Advisory Committee in the evening. The number of Demands etc. can be discussed in the afternoon. We will thus save some time.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very encouraging for the personnel of the Defence Forces that they have received general support from all sections of the House. It is further encouraging to them that their services have been appreciated very much in this House. Fortunately, we have in our country, one of the finest Armed Forces in the world. Our Armed Forces are uniformly ingrained with a sense of patriotism and no sacrifice is too great for them to protect the prestige and sovereignty of our motherland. Wherever occasion has arisen, they have demonstrated without doubt that they can face any enemy and that they can make any sacrifice in order to protect our borders. Our Defence policy mainly depends on the foreign policy of our country, but the basic Defence policy is to protect the honour, prestige and sovereignty of our motherland, irrespective of the type of Government existing in the country. They are not affected by that consideration. The only consideration is to uphold the honour of the motherland. Ever since independence, India had the fortune or misfortune of several onslaughts by its neighbours on its borders and every time with the encouragement of the entire nation our armed forces, repelled that aggression. Last time, India

had the good fortune of successfully intervening in preventing whatever atrocities were being committed in the erstwhile East Pakistan by Pakistan and it has enhanced the prestige of our armed forces in the entire world. It has further demonstrated that India does not aspire to capture the territory or any other country because India returned the territory that our armed forces had captured in Pakistan and that has been in conformity with the record of India throughout history. Perhaps India is the only country which has never used fire and sword to subjugate the people of any other country and if they have intervened any time, they have done so only to encourage and give support to the people struggling for their independence. Even during the days when we ourselves were struggling for our independence, we did not hesitate to extend our moral support to the people who were trying to free themselves from the colonial and imperial rule.

The situation across our borders has always to be taken into consideration in order to determine our attitude towards our neighbours. It has been our endeavour to establish friendly relations with all our neighbouring countries. Though there has been uncharitable criticism of and on from some of our neighbouring countries, we have tried in spite of that to cultivate friendly relations with those countries. And fortunately, we can claim that it has been possible to change the climate so far as our relations with those countries are concerned.

In spite of the fact that Pakistan has made several attacks on us, we have been trying to maintain good relations with them. I will not go into any detail about what has happened in that country this morning. It is, no doubt, their internal matter, but sometimes, the internal matter of the neighbouring country has its repercussions on us also. That has to be taken into consideration.

*Moved with the recommendation of the Vice-President acting as President.

Our relations with Nepal, another neighbour of ours, have been one of intimate friendship. The cultural bonds between the two countries extend over many centuries and that will sustain the friendship between the two countries. Not only that, whenever an occasion has arisen, we have not hesitated to help them as far as possible.

Burma, another friendly neighbour of ours, has uniformly maintained friendly relations with us and so has been the case with Sri Lanka. Whenever some emergency has faced Sri Lanka and a request has been made to us, we have without any hesitation run to their rescue and they have appreciated that very much.

In the case of Bangladesh, we can take pride that we played a decisive role in the emergence of a sovereign, free Bangladesh. There was some uninformed criticism in that country so far as India was concerned, but, in recent times, the relations between the two countries have been improving and our Prime Minister has also played a very significant part in restoring the friendly relations between the two countries and, if the present trend continues, I have no doubt that India and Bangladesh will be very friendly nations.

I am mentioning all these things because the defence policy of the government so far as the neighbours are concerned, also depends upon the nature of relation that we have with those countries. Therefore, I have said that the defence policy, apart from the basic policy, depends upon what relation the External Affairs Ministry establishes with other countries.

It is very heartening that all sections of the House have pleaded for a larger allocation for the Defence Ministry. But we should not forget that the allocation to the Defence Ministry and its expenditure is to be related to the [overall] resources available to the country. There is some misconception

that the defence expenditure is non-developmental. It is not so. A major portion of the defence expenditure is developmental in nature. I need not elaborate that point. The personnel of the Armed Forces play a significant role whenever there are natural calamities in different parts of the country. Whether it is a flood or fire or epidemic or any other natural calamity, our Armed Forces have run to the rescue of the people and that cannot be regarded entirely as a non-developmental expenditure. In regard to maintenance of law and order, though they do not directly intervene, their presence itself is a factor which helps in the maintenance of law and order and you will agree that there cannot be any sustained development work in the country if law and order is disturbed. So, the Defence Forces play a significant role in that direction also.

The ordnance factories and the public sector undertakings of the Defence Ministry play a significant role so far as the industrial development of the country is concerned. They have to be judged in relation to the overall industrial development in the country and there is no denying the fact that some of the work that has been done either in the ordnance factories or in the public sector undertakings are original in nature and has added to the overall production in the country.

A defence force has always to be kept in readiness and also constant modernisation has to be undertaken. That is what we are doing to-day. With the introduction of sophisticated weaponry it has become practicable in all countries to reduce the personnel of the defence forces. We have not done so, but there is no case, with the introduction of more modern weapons, arms and ammunitions, to raise the Armed Forces to the strength of 25 lakhs in number. Perhaps our country will not be able to sustain a number of 25 lakhs. and, I personally feel that it is not necessary to have such a huge armed force.

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

A question has been raised about the direction at the head of the Armed Forces.

Shri Yagya Datt Sharma raised a question that previously there was a Defence Committee of the Cabinet and now only there is a Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet. Well, I do not think it makes much difference or any difference at all. Whether it is the Defence Committee of the Cabinet or the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet the Minister who will be on those Committees will be more or less the same, and whenever important matters relating to defence are considered, the concerned chief is invited and when it concerns the entire Defence force, all the three chiefs are invited to the meeting. That was the practice followed when the Defence Committee of the Cabinet was in existence. Same is the practice which is followed when the matter comes before the Political Affairs Committee.

A suggestion has also been made that in order to co-ordinate the work of the three chiefs there should be a Super Chief. I do not think there is any necessity for that because we have the Chiefs of Staff Committee which regularly meets and the senior-most among the three chiefs presides over the meeting. At present the Chief of the Army Staff is the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. In this way the activities among the three forces are co-ordinated. Apart from that there is a weekly meeting of the Minister with the three Chiefs along with the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretary of the Defence Ministry, Secretary of Defence Production. We meet without agenda. The matters are brought by the three chiefs before the Committee and on many occasions, decisions are taken on the spot because the Secretaries are there. Cabinet Secretary also gives valuable suggestions in the matter. The House should be satisfied that the direction at the top, whether it is at the political level or

at the Chiefs of Staff level is quite integrated and it has stood the test of time in very emergent situations and even in urgent situations and, therefore, there is no necessity of changing the structure at present.

This question of having a Super Coordinator has been considered several times in the Ministry and it is apprehended that the imposition of a Super Chief among the three chiefs will not serve any useful purpose. It may create certain complications and retard decisions. Therefore, it is not necessary to have the present system changed as it has stood the test of time and it has served the purpose.

You cannot compare Indian situation with other countries, because their conditions in several matters are quite different from this country. In several countries the direction given to the Armed Forces is only by some personnel of the Army. Here, the direction and orders are not by the Army, Navy or Air Force people. Here the direction at the critical time is by the political leadership. That distinction has to be appreciated. Here the ultimate direction is from a civilian, from a political Head and I think that will have to be maintained.

There is no doubt that there has been some unnecessary secretiveness so far as Armed Forces are concerned. Well, I am trying to relax that. If the Members compare the reports presented to the House by the Defence Ministry for the last eight or ten years, they will find that there has been a gradual relaxation and more of information is being given to the Members of the House. In order that Members of the House may appreciate what is being done in the Research and Production Sector of the Defence Forces, I propose that batches of Members of Parliament who are interested in such matters may be taken to some of our Production Units and Ordnance Factories, HAL, Mishra Dhatu Nigam and others to see what is being done in those places. They may also visit some of our

Research Laboratories where important works are being done. That will be appreciated by hon. Members of the House; and I may start this practice from this session itself and hon. Members who are interested in visiting some such undertakings could write to me about their intentions.

But, certain amount of secrecy has to be maintained,—of course, not from the Members of Parliament and therefore I propose to take them there to see those things. But certainly they cannot be included in the reports. Although we do not intend to have secrecy from the Members of the Parliament, we will have to maintain secrecy from the public, because, once it goes to the public, it can go to the other countries as well.

As I have said, we have to constantly modernise the Army, the Air Force and the Navy.

We have a large coastline of nearly 5700 K.M. The Indian Ocean has assumed greater importance after the development of what is known as Diego Garcia. It is fortunate that many nations which are littoral nations and even others have unreservedly declared that the Indian Ocean should be maintained as a zone of peace.

It is further encouraging that President Carter has made a declaration to that effect and he is trying to have detente with USSR so that big powers may treat the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

The Indian Ocean is a vast expanse; and apart from our territorial waters every nation is free to take ships in the Indian Ocean, we have some responsibility of reconnaissance to see what are the vessels which are present in the Indian Ocean. That itself is a big task which has fallen on us.

We are trying to equip our Navy so that it can discharge the duties which have been cast on it. There is no doubt that we have aged ships in our

Navy and we are gradually replacing them. We have developed the capacity of manufacturing some war-ships in our Dockyard and we have manufactured them. We are trying to replace the Sea Hawk in Vikrant and trying to find a suitable aircraft for that. Similarly in our Army we have introduced new types of weaponry with electronic devices. In the field of electronics we have made good progress and as I have said Members who would like to visit our institutions will find that they are doing useful work and producing useful equipments.

Similarly, in the Air Force, we are trying to modernise it. But, that has to be done within the constraints of the financial resources available in the country and available to the Armed Forces. In our Aeronautics Division which has done useful work, we have produced some aircraft for the use of Air Force as well as for the civilians. Some friends mentioned about the aircraft produced for the agricultural purpose. We have the capacity for Basant which has, for agricultural purposes, been proved to be effective. Our Agriculture Ministry had placed an order for 100 Basant to be produced by the Kanpur Division of the H.A.L. and they had placed an order of hundred more after that. Due to certain difficulties regarding subsidy that was being given to the farmers for spraying and also not adequate funds being available with the State Governments, the Agriculture Ministry has reduced its order from 100 to 57 only. Whether they will place further orders or not they themselves have not been able to decide.

Therefore, unless further orders are placed by the Agriculture Ministry, after one year, the work in the Kanpur Division will be very much reduced. We are anxious that our full capacity may be utilised since our Air Force is an effective part of our Defence Forces as it was demonstrated during the last war. Some friends have mentioned about the Mirage squadron of Pakistan. At that time also there

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

was the Mirage squadron but, our small Gnats could take care of their Mirage and we are proud of our Gnats. So, Gnats are also there. I have simply mentioned one example. We should not worry because some of our neighbouring countries have acquired some new ship, aircraft or weapons. Pakistan has the advantage of showing something under the Defence Budget, something in the various Civil Departments and some assistance which they have got from other countries, that does not form part of their budget. So, their expenditure is much larger on that.

But, in any developing country like India, one has to be very cautious while diverting its scarce resources to defence. Whether that is absolutely necessary or not, that has been my approach in this matter. At the same time, we have to maintain efficiency and competence of the Armed Forces to tackle any situation that may arise on our borders.

We have the Himalayas which, at one time was regarded unpenetrable. But, with the development of various types of missiles and aircraft, that situation does not exist. Therefore, we have to take care of the Himalayas also and we have trained our soldiers and we have got mountain divisions which can take care of any civil design even at a very high altitude. We have, in order to be self-sufficient on our armed forces, set up a very fine Research and Development Laboratory and our Scientific Adviser is one of the most competent scientists of the country. That is why perhaps, he has many calls upon him. I had been trying whether I can get any top scientist who will be free to devote his entire time and attention to the defence laboratories themselves. But, whenever some outstanding scientist becomes available, I find the same difficulty with him because, any outstanding scientist has calls from foreign countries; he has calls from various

laboratories of our own country; he has calls from various institutions in our own country.

But, we will have to see that the scientist devotes adequate attention to the work under him. Defence laboratories have been rationalised and they have been, to some extent, restructured and our scientists are doing a good work in several fields in the development of missile or other ammunitions and arms. But, it takes a long time and, on many occasions, sometimes the expenditure may prove to be ultimately infructuous. But, we have to undertake that.

We have raised the age of retirement at different levels in the Army. Even the jawan's age of retirement has been raised. Pensions have also been liberalised. There has been increase in the salary of the jawans as well as the various facilities that are provided to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been taking steps for the re-settlement of the army people when they retire from the Defence service but it is not an easy task. When a large number of people are demobilised every year; when the capacity of the country to create additional jobs is limited and when we are faced with acute unemployment problem in the country as a whole they also have to suffer the same way as others in the society. But we have made some special arrangements for them. Several of the State Governments have laid down rules for the allotment of land to ex-servicemen but as a matter of fact in several States there is no scope for further allotment of land to ex-servicemen. We have made certain reservation of posts in class III and IV jobs in government, by an executive order. We have requested the State governments to make similar reservations. The idea is to have some reservations in the public sector undertakings also. But once we provide them jobs certainly we are depriving others of jobs. It does not add up to the over-all availability of

employment opportunities in the country. The other thing I introduced when I was last in charge of this Ministry was on the point that when they were likely to be demobilised they should be government training in certain arts and crafts so that after demobilisation if they do not get any employment they can engage themselves in self-employment with small capital. It was also taken up with the banks that that capital will be provided by the banks if the ex-servicemen start some industries themselves. For the officers also we made arrangements that if after retirement they want to take up certain advanced training in management or accounting etc. which will make them more employable that training will be given and the cost will be met by us. The outcome has been quite encouraging in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a study group was set-up to examine the various possibilities of finding more and more self-employment and other avenues for the ex-servicemen. This group's report has been considered by several Secretaries of the Government of India. I think, after we receive the final Report of that Study Group it will be possible to take some further action for the resettlement of the ex-servicemen. In view of this, I do not think, it is necessary to have another Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that during the Emergency actions were taken against several employees mostly in the public sector undertakings and ordnance factories—maybe there are some cases in the Armed Forces as well as civilian employees. As soon as I assumed charge of this Ministry, I issued orders that all cases of suspension, dismissal or discharge should be quickly reviewed and the process has started.

Now, regarding pension payments, it is correct that in some areas pensioners have to walk a long-distance to the Treasury to get their pensions.

It has been decided that from April this year—and it has been in force, to some extent, earlier also—those who want their pensions to be sent to them by money order will be sent to them by money order and upto Rs. 100, money order commission will not be charged from the pensioners. It will be met by the Government.

Some friends spoke about the disability pension. I may explain that where disability pension is being paid to an ex-Armed Force man, because he has lost one of his limbs, the pension granted to him is for his life and it is not reviewed. But when it is a case of partial disability where there is a possibility that the disability may further reduce or may disappear after sometime, a two-yearly review is done and again it is not done after two years, but it is done after 10 years if after that review it is found that disability is unlikely to change. The disability may, however, either mitigate or it may deteriorate. But if it deteriorates, the pension amount is increased; if it mitigates, the pension amount will have to be decreased and if it is totally disappears, the pension will have to be stopped. And, if disability remains incapable of improvement when review is undertaken after 10 years there is no further review. I thought I should explain this so that the House may know the actual position.

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह (होशियारपुर) :
पिछले वालों को पेंशन कम मिलती है और उसी कैटेगरी के नये रिटायर्ड लोगों को पेंशन ज्यादा मिलती है ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : वह तो आप देख लेंगे डिटेल् दी हुई है । यह तो होता है कि जो पहले रिटायर कर गये हैं उनको और भी कम पेंशन है ।

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह : मैं तो एक ही कैटेगरी के रिटायर्ड लोगों के बारे में कह रहा हूँ ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : आप ठीक से अध्ययन कीजिये तो मालूम होगा । लेकिन सैनिक और अफसर को एक तो नहीं बना सकते हैं । अगर आपकी राय हो तो उस पर भी विचार किया जा सकता है । लेकिन हम समझते हैं कि अगर सोच कर कहेंगे तो ऐसी राय नहीं देंगे ।

Sainik Schools were started with a view to prepare boys who may go to Khadakvasla and get into the armed forces. Well, the Sainik schools are run by societies and if their pay scales are determined by the society, which runs it, I personally feel that there is a case for reviewing and revising the pay-scales that are being paid by the Sainik Schools. But again that has to be made by the scholarship or stipend that is to be given by the State Governments or the students. Several State Governments have not agreed to any increase in their stipend to the boys in the Sainik Schools. So, it has not been possible to revise the scale or the salary of the employees in the Sainik Schools. A High Power Committee was set up in 1973 and they have made recommendations for 47 reforms. They are being examined and we will take action on that. Somebody complained about the authoritarian behaviour in the Sainik Schools. Well, if anything specific is brought to my notice, I will certainly ask the society to take appropriate action in the matter.

Recruitment to our Armed Forces is voluntary. In many countries it is compulsory. In our country it is voluntary and only those who offer themselves at the recruitment centres are recruited provided they fulfil the standard laid down for recruitment. Shri Chand Ramji raised the question of discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Tribes. I may mention there is no discrimination against anybody in the Armed Forces. The distinction of martial race and non-martial race has been buried deep down; there is no martial race and

non-martial race in the Armed Services. But due to historical reasons there are certain regiments where hundred per cent recruitment is reserved for certain classes and communities. For example in the Sikh regiment, if there is any vacancy among the jawans it will be filled only by a Sikh; it is the same thing in the Jat regiment and also in the Dogra regiment. If Chand Ramji thinks that Scheduled Castes can be recruited to the Sikh Regiment, it cannot be done because only a Sikh will be recruited. Last time I tried whether I could abolish the class composition from the Army. I came up against very stiff resistance from several quarters....

AN HON. MEMBER: There are Scheduled Castes among Sikhs also.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: For the Scheduled Caste Sikhs there is the Sikh light infantry. Chand Ramji said that Ramdasias and Majabias Sikh are taken while non-Sikh Scheduled Castes are not taken. As I said earlier, in other regiments, there is no reservation for the communities. For example, the Bihar regiment is open to all communities. This reservation, class composition exists only in the Army. Not in the Navy or in the Air Force. There it is open to all without any class composition. In the Army also this class composition exists only so far as jawans or soldiers are concerned; for officers there is no class composition.

Last time when I was in charge of this ministry, because it was brought to my notice that there were many irregularities in the recruitment of officers, second lieuts. I entrusted the preliminary selection of the candidates to the Public Service Commission. There is no reservation for anybody. Every Indian, subject to certain standards prescribed, is free to offer himself and apply to the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment as second lieut. in the Army. As I said

due to historical reasons recruitment in several regiments is done entirely on the basis of castes and communities and persons belonging to other castes or other communities are not recruited to those regiments.

About the NCC, I should say it is a useful organisation. It is voluntary. Sometime earlier it was made compulsory and it was found that there was a great resistance from the students. In order to restructure the NCC, a committee under Dr. Mahajani, Vice-Chancellor of the Pune University was set up. They submitted a report and their recommendation was that in order to make the NCC more effective and more useful it was necessary to reorganise and in the process of reorganisation certain reduction was to be effected. As a matter of fact when I assumed charge of the Ministry, notices had been issued to retrench a large number of people in every State. As soon as I came, I received complaints and so I have stopped their retrenchment till I have myself further examined the whole case.

There are several questions raised by hon. Members. I think I need not go into details of all of them. But I will get them examined and wherever it is found possible and feasible to implement them, I will implement them. But in many cases perhaps it may not be possible to implement them.

I think I have covered most of the important points raised by hon. Members. I would like to say something about the Devil Project which was mentioned by Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi. This was undertaken primarily with a view to develop the competence in the area of the missile system. When we enter into a new scientific field, the progress is not always as satisfactory as one would expect it to be. However, this project was reviewed by a committee, chaired by Dr. Brahma Prakash, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre,

Trivandrum. It came to the conclusion that the progress being satisfactory, the project should be allowed to be completed. Dr. Joshi also referred to the importance of research and development in the field of defence. This is receiving our sustained attention.

As I have said, the all-round appreciation of the efficiency and the work of the defence forces will greatly encourage our defence forces. I shall communicate it to them that the whole House has uniformly appreciated their work. The monetary consideration is not the main consideration with our armed forces. Whenever there is any danger on the borders of the motherland, there is a competition between the different regiments of the armed forces as to who will first face the danger and protect the motherland. On behalf of the armed forces, I express my gratitude and thanks to all the Members of the House.

श्री भानुकुमार शास्त्री (उदयपुर) :
क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि पाकिस्तान और चीन के अधिकार में हमारी जो भूमि चली गई है, उसके बारे में सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

MR. SPEAKER: He will have to make a speech for one hour again about China and Pakistan. I do not think it will be possible now.

I shall put all the cut motions to the vote of the House now.

Cut Motions Nos. 1, 21 to 38 and 49 to 53 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment

during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1978 in respect of the heads of demands entered in

the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 22 to 27 relating to the Ministry of Defence."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants 1977-78 in respect of the Ministry of Defence voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 30-3-1977			
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.		
1	2	3	4		
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE					
22.	Ministry of Defence	24,05,94,000	17,08,68,000	48,69,19,000	28,41,37,000
23.	Defence Services—Army	598,83,47,000	..	1184,09,95,000	..
24.	Defence Services—Navy	62,58,65,000	..	124,96,29,000	..
25.	Defence Services—Air Force	191,84,23,000	..	374,20,47,000	..
26.	Defence Services—Pensions	37,15,02,000	..	74,30,03,000	..
27.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services.	..	102,10,01,000	..	172,98,02,000

12.58 hrs.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 28 to 30 relating to the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and Demand Nos. 102 and 103 relating to the Department of Culture, for which 7 hours have been allotted.

Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order

Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1978 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 28 to 30 relating to the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare".

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the