

13. The Commission is new working on Volumes II and III of their report dealing with the different States and basins respectively. It is expected that these will be ready another in three months.

14. Government is examining the report of the Commission and will come up, in due course, before the House with their decision.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS OF PROFIT

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) : I beg to move the following :—

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two members of Rajya Sabha according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Dr. (Mrs) Mangla-devi Talwar and Shri M. V. Bhadram from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two members of Rajya Sabha according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Dr. (Mrs,) Mangla-devi Talwar and Shri M. V. Bhadram from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

The motion was adopted

(ii) COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Rupar) : I beg to move the following :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two members of Rajya Sabha in accordance with the system of proportionai

representation by means of the single transferable vote to the Committee one the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Brahma-nanda Panda and Sukhdev Prasad from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Committee.”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two members of Rajya Sabha in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Brahma-nanda Panda and Sukhdev Prasad from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

12.54 hrs.

NATIONAL SERVICE BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of qualified persons and for the rendering of national service by such persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of qualified persons and for the rendering of national service by such persons and for matters connected therewith.”

MR. SPEAKER : I have received only two names, namely those of Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu. The notice from Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu came rather late, while Shri S. M. Banerjee's notice had come at ten o'clock. In future, I would advise the hon. Member Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu to more careful and send the names early.

*Published in Gazette of India Extra-Ordinary Part II, section 2, dated 5.4.72.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond-horbour) : I did not give it at ten o'clock but later. I thank you for permitting me.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : This Bill is meant for national service. Everyone of us in this House would certainly like to see that our young brothers and sisters serve a national cause. But it is really a serious joke on those who are unemployed.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons clearly says :

"The Bill seeks to restrict the period for which a person may be called up for rendering national service to a period not exceeding four years. The Bill seeks to impose a further restriction to the effect that the liability of a qualified person shall come to an end on his attaining the age of thirty years."

The scheme is just like the NSLT during the Second World War of 1942. When the NSLT was formed, the technicians who were working in the various factories had to fill up a bond that they would serve wherever the NSLT wanted them to serve. This Bill is actually in line with that.

My main objection to the Bill is this. It is mainly a question of unemployed engineers and doctors. From the definition of 'qualified person' also, we find :

"has obtained a recognised medical qualification within the meaning of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956", and again

"Has obtained or has passed an examination which entitles him to obtain a degree of the university of its equivalent qualification in any branch of engineering or technology or both".

You will remember, Sir, that Indian doctors who have come from abroad, after having passed MRCP and FRCP examinations are today not getting jobs in this country, and the number of unemployed engineers is more than about 80,000. The number ranges between 58,000 and 80,000. Today, we want those people to serve the Government for a national cause.

My first objection is that this Bill is not necessary when people are just dying to

serve the nation. Since the 1962 Sino-Indian war, every young man has offered his services to the nation. In 1965 I had seen many young people who had laid down their lives not to talk of merely serving the nation, as engineers or as doctors. I know also that recently all the qualified engineers had written to the Education Minister and also the Prime Minister to the effect that they were prepared to go anywhere, wherever they were sent. Today, when the line between hunger and anger is becoming thinner, when there is a competition or race between hunger and starvation, this Bill will be a serious joke on them. For, I feel that this will be called hypocritical and will not be regarded as a serious attempt on the part of Government. When the right to work is enshrined in the Directive Principles of State policy in the Constitution, one would have expected that this should have been translated into action, and if that had been done, I do not think that this question would have ever arisen.

If the difficulty is only this that doctors do not go to the rural areas, then I am at one with the hon. Minister in saying that there should be compulsion and doctors should serve the rural areas also, because otherwise the rural population would suffer at the hands of the quacks.

When people are dying for jobs, I do not think that this Bill is necessary. People are actually breaking their heads in going to the employment exchanges. When we ask them to have self-reliance, and we ask them '*Kadam milaakar chalo*', they ask us 'where?', and we have only to tell them 'To the employment exchanges'. So, my first objection is that this Bill is not necessary.

13.00 hrs.

My second objection is about the financial memorandum where it has been stated as follows :

"Clauses 11, 12, 13, and 14 and 15 provide for compulsory registration of persons liable to perform national service and the Central Government is required under the Bill to register and enlist qualified persons for national service".

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Then it says :

"The expenditure on account of the staff that may have to be incurred in this connection, together with incidental expenses, will be about Rs. 5, 57,000 per year. There will be no non-recurring expenditure".

I am surprised to see that recurring expenditure is there but there will be no non-recurring expenditure. This matter requires clarification.

I do not object to introduction of Bills on ticklish, technical or super-technical points. But this requires elucidation by the hon. Minister. Let him clarify whether this Bill is at all necessary when there is so much unemployment in the country and people are wanting employment and secondly, whether there will be non-recurring expenditure or not.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Shri Banerjee has covered most of what I wanted to say. But I wanted to ask in which sphere of employment are Government finding difficulty in finding enough number of people. According to a survey, two-thirds of the able-bodied population in the country are without employment or adequate employment. We have a population of 74,000 unemployed engineers.

Before this Bill is introduced with the consent of the House, the Minister must specify the sphere in which they are not getting sufficient number of people.

The second point, which Shri Banerjee has already made and which I reiterate is that they ought to come forward with a proper financial memorandum. I am sure you will agree that the financial memorandum is not adequate. It does not explain the whole thing as required under the rules. Therefore, this Bill should be withdrawn and reintroduced with a proper financial memorandum.

Again I request the Minister to state specifically in which sphere they are finding difficulty in getting people. We do not want him to create a smokescreen of bringing such a Bill without stating the particular

difficulty they are facing in particular spheres.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : May I point out that there is a very serious lacuna in the financial memorandum, which might have been overlooked ?

You will find that it provides only for a sum of Rs 5,57,000 a year to meet the expenses of the head quarters establishment which will be set up to consolidate registration particulars etc. You will see in cl.15, p. 8 :

"Every qualified person who is called up for national service under this Act, or who is transferred from one form of national service to another, shall be paid such salary, wages, allowances, pension, disability and death compensations and other benefits as may be prescribed :

"Provided that such payments shall be on scales not less favourable than those admissible to persons of like qualifications, experience and length of service in similar positions under the Government".

This means that everybody called up for national service under the Bill when it becomes law, whether he is in government service already or not—because the scope is now being extended to cover all persons who 'hold recognised medical qualifications within the meaning of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 or a degree in engineering or technology, or both'—will have to be paid and that means that these amounts will have to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund of India. There is no mention whatsoever in the financial memorandum of what is likely to be the approximate expenditure on this head. No provision has been made. The provision made only refers to the expenditure of the headquarters organisations which will be set up to administer the Act.

Therefore, you will please see that the financial memorandum is thoroughly defective. It cannot be permitted to come in this way. The Bill should be withdrawn, a proper financial memorandum should be

prepared and then only the Bill can be brought before the House.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am a little surprised at the Bill being opposed because I would have thought that this is a measure which should have been welcomed by all sections of the House. After all, in many countries today, the young men do volunteer themselves or there is some kind of a national service scheme under which, after passing out, they devote a certain number of years to national service before they get into their regular jobs and so on. This is not anything unusual or anything new that this country is doing. In fact, as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there was an earlier scheme in the wake of the Chinese aggression, but that scheme was later on widened and enlarged, and the present scheme covers doctors and engineers, and this would require them to put in a certain number of years of national service.

Now, the question that has been raised by Shri Banerjee and Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu is, what is the exact difficulty or where are we finding it difficult to get people. Shri Banerjee himself mentioned that in the rural areas, you do not find doctors in any of the hospitals and dispensaries. This is an experience which is probably common to all Members sitting here. If they look out in their own constituencies, they will find there are so many hospitals and dispensaries which are without the services of doctors. Primary health centres are without doctors; where family planning programmes are going on, there are no doctors. Therefore, this is one aspect which has to be taken note of.

The second point is, I would not say there is unemployment of doctors; I would not know that there is much of unemployment because doctors can earn some money if they start working some where...

SHRI PVENKATASUBBAIAH : (Nandyal) : Many of them, especially in Andhra Pradesh, are without employment; at least 2,000 to 3,000 doctors do not get any employment.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Therefore, those people can work in the rural areas. Those

people do not want to go into the rural areas.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : They are prepared to go.

SHRI K.C. PANT : If they are prepared to go, then under this scheme, if they are qualified, they will get a chance to work.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under this scheme, will they get immediate employment?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to that. The other thing is about engineers. While it is true that there is unemployment among engineers, it is also true—and I am sure that my friends opposite know this—that the army for instance, has been finding it difficult to get engineers. It has been advertising but engineers have not been forthcoming. Now, these are some of the practical difficulties that will be overcome by this Bill.

Apart from that, if you pause think to about the unemployment situation also, this really will generate more employment, because there will be vacancies in the rural dispensaries, etc. which will be filled, and more people will be taken in in the army and vacancies may also be occurring else where. After all, who are these people? They have not come from the moon. These are qualified, young men who might otherwise join the ranks of the unemployed. Here is a scheme which will enable them in four years to gain experience and to get some initial employment and they will be getting, as you see, the remuneration at the scale which is not less favourable than the remuneration admissible to similarly-placed Government employees. So, there is national service on the one hand, and on the other hand, though not a guarantee, it requires that they can be taken, after they pass out, and given jobs in various places where they may not otherwise be willing to go, and where we do know that doctors and engineers today are willing to go in the interests of national development. So, this scheme on all accounts is a scheme which I though would have been welcome.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I thought your proposal was with respect to a pre-condition that every person belonging to the

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

medical and engineering professions would be required to render a certain period of service in the rural areas or any area that may be proposed under the scheme.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Well if you like to discuss the details of the scheme now...

MR. SPEAKER : Later on, you can discuss it when we come to the consideration stage.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, just one clarification. Since he has clarified many points and I am happy about it I want to know one thing. Supposing we pass this Bill without any difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER : About these things we can speak when we have the general discussion, not at this stage when the Bill is being introduced... (Interruptions)...

SHRI K. C. PANT : He has understood it rightly. As I said, certain places are today vacant and they will be filled. That certainly will not take away from the pool of employment; that will add to the number of places.

I am not quite able to follow, the question raised by Mr. Indrajit Gupta. It says have that the expenditure on account of the staff that may have to be incurred in this connection, together with incidental expenses will be about Rs. 5.57 lakhs a year. There will be a headquarters establishment and employment exchanges will be used for registration, etc. There was objection to the statement that there will be no non-recurring expenditure. It does not say : no recurring expenditure but no non-recurring expenditure. I think there is some semantical confusion there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He is avoiding my point by saying he could not understand it. What is your interpretation, Sir ? This amount is stated here for headquarters establishment ; there is not a single word about payments which will have to be made by way of salaries, allowances, pensions, etc. to doctors and engineers who will be called up under this national service.

SHRI K. C. PANT : If it is all covered under clauses 11 to 15.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a specific amount of money mentioned in the financial memorandum. Mr. Indrajit Gupta asks about the expenditure on wages, salaries, etc. Of course they will get it from their departments, not from here. It is just an enabling provision. So, the question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of qualified persons and for the rendering of national service by such persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.15 hrs.

MOTION RE : FOURTH PLAN MID-TERM APPRAISAL

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the 'Fourth Plan Mid-term Appraisal', laid on the Table of the House on the 22nd December, 1971, be taken into consideration".

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our Independence. This also is the year when planning in India comes of age. During these 21 years, we have had three five-year plans, three annual plans and have just left behind us the mid-point in the Fourth Plan period, which was marked by my laying on the Table of the House the Mid-term appraisal document on 22nd December, 1971.

Many questions arise. Are we wiser for this experience of planning ? As a matter of fact, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu raised the question whether there has been anything wrong in the planning. I would like to know from him whether there has been anything wrong and, if so, what he thinks is the right thing to do in planning. What are the new directions towards which we must