

Mr. Speaker: The result of the division is: 'Ayes' 31; 'Noes' 135.

The motion was negatived.

15.47 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PENSIONS FOR ARMED SERVICES

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that pensions of Army Jawans, Airmen and Naval ratings are inadequate and should be revised upwards."

While we have been showing a considerable amount of sympathy for our wounded and for the widows, nevertheless, I feel that since pension rates have not been revised since the last ten years, the Government should give special attention to this matter. In the case of widows, where the death of a jawan or airman or rating occurs in conditions which are not attributable to service conditions, the pension is only for five years. But there is no allowance for children's education or maintenance of children. That is the first thing that should be put right. What is more, in spite of the fact that the emergency has been on for the last one year, we have made no changes whatsoever to provide for a war disability pension. The usual disability pension which exists is continuing. But if a young man, who has been serving only for about a year is disabled, the total amount he would get would be about Rs. 15. You can understand, Sir, that in the present conditions where the cost of living is high, where the chances of re-employment are very limited, Rs. 15 is hardly enough for a man of 22 or

23. Therefore, I feel that there should be a special war disability pension, as it existed in England, to cover the period of the emergency. Normally disability pension is given where a jawan or rating or an officer suffers disability due to service conditions. The war disability pension should have a higher rate because the age of the wounded is much lower and he may have to suffer years of disability. Therefore, war disability pension should have a higher rate than the normal disability pension which is given for disability suffered due to service conditions.

Further, I understand, in the case of other ranks, unless a person has worked or served for a minimum of 15 years his widow is not eligible for pension. That means, if he dies under conditions which are not attributable to service conditions then his wife will get a gratuity and that gratuity seems to be very inadequate. I shall quote the figures for the information of the House. Apparently, in non-attributable conditions a widow will get something like Rs. 300. If the jawan has served for less than five years the gratuity is equal to six months pay. If he serves from 5 to 15 years the gratuity is equal to a year's salary. It is only when he has served over 15 years that the widow will get a pension for five years.

With regard to death which occurs under conditions which are attributable to service reasons, these are called special family pensions. There also I feel that the pension should be revised upwards. Here I understand that in the lowest cadre the family will get Rs. 24.50 going up to the highest cadre which would be about Rs. 65 to Rs. 75. I would like some clarification on this point from the hon. Minister. What is the minimum period of service which the other ranks have to put in for their families to qualify for pension? Is it a

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fact that he must put in a minimum service for 15 years?

Now, I understand that in the civilian rates of pension the minimum pension is Rs 30 per month. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the minimum rate of pension if a jawan is invalidated out due to reasons which are not attributable to service conditions. Is the minimum pension Rs. 30 or is it less than that?

With regard to children's pension, I understand that only a children's allowance is given where the death of the jawan occurs under conditions attributable to service reasons. I do feel that the children's allowance should be made available to widows even where death does not occur due to service conditions, because the financial position of the women is very pitiable. Therefore, it should be made available to everyone. Even where death occurs for reasons due to service conditions, I understand, the children's allowance is only Rs. 5. If a widow gets a pension of Rs. 20 and Rs. 5 per child she will have, if she has two or three children, in all she gets Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 in her hands. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to look into these services rules and see, not only for economic reasons but for other reasons also like the one that these pensions have not been revised for the last 15 years that something is done in respect of the adequacy of these pensions.

Then, I understand that the rules which apply to the pensions of officers and their families are rather different from the rules which apply to the widows of others ranks. Is it a fact that in the case of an officer, if death occurs due to conditions which are not attributable to service conditions, a widow will get a life pension whereas in the case of a jawan the widow will get the pension only for five

years. This seems to me not only unfair, but it seems that where the need is greater the sympathy is less. The widow gets Rs. 20 at the maximum, and even that is cut out after five years. Do you know that there are a number of girls of the age of 18, 19 and 20 who have become widows and at the age of 25 they are left absolutely destitute because you cut off their pension after five years? Therefore, this particular thing must be revised, that the pension which is only payable to a widow whose husband dies under conditions which are certified to be not attributable to service reasons should only go for five years. I know there are cases where a man is posted at a high altitude but after two or three years he has been brought down and posted to an ordinary place. After being posted to an ordinary place he may develop a heart condition, he may develop some lung condition which may be a throw-back of some pulmonary-condition which he developed while he was posted at a very high altitude. It is not often detected that this development was due to something that happened three or four years ago. Therefore, it may be said that it is not attributable to service conditions because when he died he did not die in a place which, you could directly say, caused a pulmonary infection or heart disease. Under this sort of things a widow may get a pension only for five years. Therefore, in any case, whether it is attributable or non-attributable to service reasons, if an officer's wife gets pension for life a jawan's wife also must get pension for life. Secondly there should be children's allowance available to all widows, whether the death is due to attributable or non-attributable service conditions.

The third thing is, as I said, the rates of pension that exist today have not been revised for the last 10 years or even 15 years. Therefore,

they should be looked into. I know that the Defence Minister made some statement a few months ago saying that the pensions have been raised. But I understand that the rise is only about a rupee or two rupees. I also know that a few years ago the children's allowance was increased from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per child. What difference does one rupee make today? What you could buy for eight annas 20 years ago you cannot get for a rupee today. All these things should be taken into consideration, because in the case of recruitment and other matters this has a tremendous influence on the minds of the people. It is all very well to say that our jawans are brave, we shall collect money for them, we shall give them donations and all that. What they want to know is, what permanent security you are offering to their widows. That is the only thing that the men are thinking about. What relief will you give to the disabled people and what provision will you make for the widows and children of those men who are going to give their lives for the defence of this country?

16 hrs.

So, I would request the hon. Defence Minister to look into three things. The first thing is that there should be the same type of rules for other ranks as exist for the officers. The second thing is that there should be an equation between the minimum pensions which are drawn by civilians and the other ranks. Where retirement is by superannuation in the case of jawans and where death occurs due to non-tributable conditions there must be a minimum at least which you can give and the widows should not get pensions only for five years but for life there should be children's allowance. The third thing that I would request you is to have a committee which should go into the rates of pensions and there should be a general raise in the level of pensions because economically speaking it is not possible for people to maintain themselves on the pen-

sions they get today. I go into the districts and men who are disabled come to me and say, that "this is the state in which they are. Do you think that they can live on Rs. 20 a month or on Rs. 15 a month?" So, this is the sort of thing that we have to face and I would request the Government to look into this thing particularly and into the rates of pension. They should appoint a commission or a committee if they like which will go into this very carefully and give their recommendations for the Government's consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that pensions of Army Jawans, Airmen and Naval ratings are inadequate and should be revised upwards."

I have received some notices of amendment also. One is by Shri Banerjee. Is he going to move it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Another one is by Shri Rananjai Singh. He is not present. The third is by Shri Shree Narayan Das. He too is not present. So, both of them are not moved. Shri Banerjee might move his.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Sir, there is my Resolution also on the Order Paper. I hope, you will stick to the time limit that is fixed by the Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Certainly we will stick to the time allotted.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): Sir, this is a very important Resolution, specially for the Naval men.

Shri Ansar Harvani (Bisauli): This is very important.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): How much time has been allotted for this?

Mr. Speaker: For this Resolution the time allotted is 1 hour and 15 minutes as I find from the paper here. We started at 3.47.

Shri Ranga: I hope, you will give me a chance to move that Resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Just now he was telling me that I should stick to the time.

Shri Ranga: That does not mean that I should not be given half a minute for moving it even.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: More time was taken by the division and all that on the previous Resolution.

Mr. Speaker: What could I have done about that?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Therefore give him one minute to move it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House is of opinion that a Committee be appointed immediately to revise the pensionary and other retirement benefits of Army Jawans, Airmen and Naval ratings with instructions to submit the report latest by the end of November, 1963."

I would have supported the Resolution moved by Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee and I still congratulate and thank her for moving this Resolution on a very opportune moment when our jawans are really engaged in defending our land but I thought that the hon. Minister might reject the Resolution by saying that it was impossible for him to accept the Resolution as it

is because it demanded immediate revision of the pensionary benefits. So, I thought of moving a substitute Resolution which would give an opportunity to the hon. Minister to appoint a committee to go into the entire question of pensionary and other retirement benefits of jawans, ratings and airmen and after the submission of that committee which I want to be submitted by the end of November 1963 it can be implemented.

There is wide discrimination between the pay and allowances and service conditions of the jawans and the officers. There is bound to be some discrimination or difference but in our country we find that the gap is too much. When the Raghuramaiah Committee was appointed to go into the question of wages and service conditions of the army men including officers it submitted a report a perusal of which would reveal that officers of the rank of Captain and Major have gained to the tune of Rs. 200 a month whereas the jawans has gained an increase of only Rs. 12; in certain cases it ranges from Rs. 20 to Rs. 24. This to my mind is a clear picture. There is heartburning among our other ranks. The Indian people are always contented with what they have and, after all, our army men, our jawans and ratings and airmen are also the product of this soil. They are the sons of the peasants and workers of our country and they also content themselves by saying that this was in their lot. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to accept this Resolution which does not demand immediate revision but which simply demands the appointment of a committee to go into the question.

I know, Sir, when an announcement was made by the hon. Defence Minister, Shri Y. B. Chavan, in Srinagar that the rate of pension of the Army officers had gone up, there was happiness among the other ranks also because they thought that the next announcement will be regarding their pensionary benefits and that that will be done, if not from Srina-

gar, from Delhi. But this was not done. With these army men the lot of 2,53,000 civilians employees in Defence Service is tagged.

We know the Tyagi formula which was implemented somewhere in parts and somewhere in full to decide about the pensionary benefits. Then the Raghuramaiah Committee was appointed. I must take this opportunity for congratulating Shri Raghuramaiah, the Minister of Defence Production, for submitting a good report. But he had his limitations. At that time his powers were limited and moreover he thought that the financial authorities may not accept any higher benefit which would go to the other ranks. With all his limitations he submitted a good report and I would like to know from him whether his report has been implemented in full. If it has not been done, this should be done immediately.

My hon. friend, Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee, brought up the question of the widows who get pension for a specific period. It is a tragedy and a sad commentary on our defence forces if a widow who has lost her husband while defending the land has to weep throughout her life on the streets and starve her children. It will be a tragedy indeed if she is not given pension for her entire life to bring up her children. After all, the army men and their sons are alike and we have to see that all their interests are protected. Otherwise, what will be the incentive? Apart from the national sentiment which is in our blood, which is in the blood of our army men, the jawans and the officers, what is going to be the other incentive? They should know that if they die by fighting for the country, by defending the borders of the country, their families are not going to starve. That should be the consolation to an army man when he joins the army, that he has to sacrifice his life to defend his country but his family will not starve. It is no use assuring him Param Vir Chakra or Maha Vir Chakra or any

Chakra. Naturally, their wives and their family members cannot live with a Chakra throughout their lives and beg. I had been to Dehra Dun. I have seen the wives and the family members of those jawans who laid down their lives to defend the borders of our country. They were thrown out of their houses. They say, "Your husband has died and you have to go to the camp and stay there and this house will be occupied by other people." This is a tragedy indeed. I wanted to write some letters to the Defence Minister which I did not do because I knew that some members of the ruling party who went there wrote a letter and describe the sad plight of the families of those jawans. So, I would request the hon. Minister to accept this substitute resolution of mine. This gives him an opportunity to discuss the entire matter and place the entire matter before a committee and that committee will be capable and responsible to submit a report latest by the end of November, 1963.

I also take this opportunity—and you will kindly excuse me—if I say something about the civilian employees in Defence department who are intimately connected with the defence production and the defence needs of the country. After all, that is the rear. If the civilian employees in Defence fail, our army will fail. They produce arms and ammunition. What is their condition of service in our country today? The industrial workers who have served in the ordnance factories for more than 30 years are not entitled to pension. Now, 80 per cent of the workers are going to be declared permanent. But that 80 per cent order has not been implemented. Previously, when Mr. Tyagi was the Minister, in 1956 I believe, he said that 50 per cent of the workers will be declared permanent. Later on, that 50 per cent was raised to 80 per cent by the ex-Defence Minister, Mr. Krishna Menon. But unfortunately those orders have not been implemented. And what about the pensionary

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benefits? It is a tragedy that in the Defence department all service prior to 1st August 1949—that is the crucial date which has been fixed—does not count for pensionary benefits. This matter was placed before the Pay Commission and with great effort the Pay Commission recommended that 50 per cent of their services should count for pension. Supposing I had started my career in an ordnance factory as an ordinary worker in the year 1942 and I have completed 6 or 7 years of service by that time, that is, the crucial date of 1st August, 1949, why should that service be left out for pension benefit? It is a tragedy. There is a category of persons, hardly numbering one thousand, in the country known as the Indian superior personnel—I.S.P. It is just to safeguard the interests of those Indian superior personnel, the services of nearly 30,000 or 40,000 ex-CTE and IPs are not being counted for the purpose of pension. I would plead with the hon. Minister that when he decides about giving increased pensionary benefits or retirement benefits to the army men, to our jawans, to our ratings, he would also keep in mind those 2,53,000 civil employes in Defence establishment who work day in and day out to defend the borders of the country, who are working round the clock to defend the interests of the country, to defend the borders of the country and that they should not be ignored.

With these words, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that this resolution is accepted and I am sure he would have no objection in accepting this resolution and that the pensionary benefits to the jawans will be increased along with those of the civil employes in the Defence department.

Mr. Speaker: Both the original Resolution and the substitute one are before the House.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee has done well in focusing public attention on this very important mat-

ter. The jawans, the ratings and those who work in the Air Force on a lower scale are the founders of the security of our nation. Their case has been neglected and their case seems to be decided by some kind of a capitalistic rule or convention wherein in large, important industrial organisations the pay of the lower staff is decided on some fantastic or inhuman consideration. Technical walls are being raised one against the other but, I say, the human consideration should be the paramount consideration in fixing their pay scales. The human considerations alone can go into this business and no technical rules of any type should come in. What is meant for our air force, what is meant for our navy and what is meant for our army, should be given to them very generously. This House will not grudge giving any amount of money to them.

Their housing facilities, their medical attention and a number of other amenities are completely ignored. If you go round the army messes in New Delhi, you will find the army officers living in very abject circumstances. Their wives complain that their children have not got enough light nor breeze, that they live in quarters which should have been pulled down a long time ago. These quarters should have been pulled down a long time ago and yet we have such a vast amount of money unutilised passed on from year to year without being utilised for the construction of such essential housing amenities. These officers who live in various messes in New Delhi do deserve to have good flats, good bungalows. I do not know why this has not entered in the minds of anyone running the Ministry for all these years. All these messes should be pulled down and new buildings should be put up.

Large commodious flats should be provided for the army officers. If we do not provide them with enough amenities, corruption can enter in the defence forces. I shall not pose any

questions because we want to keep the defence forces in a kind of an ivory tower. I shall not pose any questions. But when we do not provide any social security for the personnel in the defence forces—the air force, the navy and the army—I think the temptations are large; the temptations do not evade any human being.

Then, in regard to medical aid, I am surprised to find what an ordinary retired army man says by sending me a chit:

"Retired ex-Army Officers do not get free medical aid for themselves nor their families and never free special treatment. The abnormal dearness has caused living miserable both for low and high pensioners, whereas no increase has been sanctioned for J.C.Os drawing pension."

I cannot understand how a pension is refused for some one in the Defence Forces who has died at his post of duty by working even for one year.

Now, if a soldier dies in the course of his duty, it is not only the moral right of this House, the moral right of the victim, but also the political right that his widow should be given the pension. I myself who have been taking enormous interest during all the 15 years of my membership of Parliament in regard to the welfare of the wives and children of the air force officers do sincerely realise that the air force people make the highest quality of sacrifice because the army man is always on land and the navy man is not all the year round faced with the ship being torpedoed or tossed by storms, but the moment anybody enters the plane, he has to forget his wife and children and his dearest ones. The moment he enters the plane, he forgets them all until he comes out. Should he die in thinking that his wife and children will be neglected after his death? I want the Defence Minister to take a special note of this.

Now, if a pilot or an officer works in a commercial airline, he is provided with as much as a lakh of rupees by insurance on death due to a crash whilst if he is in the Indian Air Force, he perhaps gets Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 8,000 or even much less than that. We owe a duty to the air force people who look after the security of our nation. They have done a very good job in the dropping of foodstuffs in the NEFA frontier. They are being neglected. If we have no money, we shall find out the money. This Parliament shall find out the money. There is no use finding this reason or that. This is a question irrespective of party considerations where no party considerations or any political difference comes in. This is a national question and unless this broad question is decided on a national issue, we could do nothing. As the debate was progressing, I was reminded of what I read in the year 1962 or so namely the words of Mr. Rawle Knox. Those words shall for ever be ringing in my ears. And these were the words written by that experienced British journalist in the *London Observer*. He wrote of the Chinese Army and he stated that "the Chinese Army is well fed, well looked after and very popular in the countryside." I would like you to look up the old files of the *London Observer* of 1950-52, wherein Knox made these statements. Those three phrases have been imprinted in my mind, and I think that those three phrases mean a lot. Why is our next-door neighbour progressive and why has she been able to satisfy the Army there on these three conditions? We do not want to compete with the Chinese, but we must not be lacking in generosity in the treatment of our defence forces. We shall go our own way.

I would just make a reference in this connection to the book called *The Red Army of China* written by Mr. Edgar O'Ballance, wherein the very second paragraph of the author's preface, the following passage appears, namely:

"Today, reports filtering through from Red China tell a vastly diffe-

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rent tale, making the West uneasily aware that the old military order has changed with a vengeance and that the modern Chinese soldier is brave, dedicated and determined. How has this change come about?"

And that is exactly what we have to think about. If we do not look after his stomach, to use a very vulgar phrase, if we do not look after his material comforts such as housing, medical attention etc., then how can we improve the condition of our soldiers? I have myself raised often several questions in this House about the children of the men belonging to the Defence Forces. If a man carries a card that he is an ex-serviceman, and he goes to any school or college, that school or college must automatically admit that child without refusing admission on any ground. Let us be very clear about this—about a child of a person belonging to the Defence Forces; whether he has been a rating or an O.R. or an officer, as long as the father or the mother of the child carries the card to any school or college, that school or college must find a place for that child. Unless you are able to provide these amenities, we do not know how the families will be able to live. Therefore, the wives and the widows of the men belonging to the Defence Forces have to be looked after well. What was sanctioned for them ten years ago is not enough today even to provide for their clothing, food and other necessities. Moreover, the expenses have also gone up very high today. And today, we are looking up to our Army and Air Force and the Navy to defend us, and we today who are civilians and who are fairly in comfortable positions depend upon their sacrifices, the sacrifice of their human lives for our freedom. We need only have a look at the army hospitals after the NEFA troubles to realise what we have to do to these people; we shall find in these hospitals men without ears, men without hands, men without legs, men without feet

and so on. And these men who walk out of the hospitals are disabled, they are discharged from service and do not even get Rs. 30 or Rs. 50 as pension per month. When an airman in commercial lines gets disabled, he gains about a lakh of rupees or so from the companies. In fact, even when you or I insure by paying Rs. 5 or 10 while travelling by air, we can get a sum of Rs. 50,000 or so. But what about these men who have been disabled? What about these men who have been defending our freedom and who have forgotten everything about themselves and who have worked wholeheartedly, defending our country? What is the aid that we are giving to these people? We must provide them medical attention not merely when they are in service, but even when they retire; when they show their card stating that they are ex-servicemen they must get admission in the hospitals. And I hope that we shall have doctors known as specialists who will be patriotic enough on the higher rungs and will always be prepared to place their services at the disposal of these ratings and jawans and airmen.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to know how many Members want to speak on this—I find that there is a large number.

Shri Hem Raj (Kangra): Let the time for resolution be extended.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Time should be extended for this.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Ranga wanted reduction of the time.

Shri Hem Raj: This is an important resolution, and the time for this must be extended.

Shri Raghunath Singh: This is a very important resolution, concerning the officers in the Navy and the naval ratings. Nobody has said anything about the naval ratings so far.

Everybody has been speaking only about the army men and the airmen.

Shri Kapur Singh: Shri Ranga has just gone out, but it is his desire that his resolution should be taken up to-day.

Mr. Speaker: Even if I do not extend the time for this resolution, then, too, his resolution cannot come up.

Shri Yashpal Singh: I can withdraw my resolution, if Shri Ranga could be given a chance to move his resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Even if he withdraws his name, then the time cannot be reduced. That is my difficulty. 1 hour and 15 minutes is the time fixed by the House. We began this at 3.47 P.M. and at 5 P.M. we have to take up the adjournment motion that we had held over in the morning. Therefore, this resolution cannot be finished today. But even if it is finished, and we get time after 5 p.m., then too, Shri Ranga's resolution cannot possibly get in today. That is the difficulty. Therefore, I hope Shri Yashpal Singh would not withdraw his resolution in these circumstances.

Now, Shri Sarjoo Pandey. I have got about 12 names in the list before me, and there are others also who have stood up. So, hon. Members may kindly be brief.

श्री सारजू पाण्डे - (रसड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्तावक महोदय श्रीमती शारदा मुक्तों को अन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस प्रस्ताव को एं मे मौफेवर सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है जब इनके लिये बिल्कुल ठीक अवसर जान पड़ना है। इस देश की और इस सदन की नैतिक जिम्मेदारी है कि जो लोग हमारी सेनाओं में लड़ते हैं या जो सेनाओं में काम करते हैं उन्हें इस बात का अवसर वप्रदान किया जाय कि वे अपने भविष्य की चिन्ता न करें। लेकिन जैसा कई माननीय सदस्यों ने बतलाया

है, और हम सब को तजुर्बा है कि उनकी स्थिति क्या है। भापको देखना चाहिए कि फौजों में काम करने वाले जवानों की दशा भाज क्या है। जो लोग हमारी सेनाओं में लड़ते हैं और जो हमारी सेनाओं के अफसर हैं उनके रहन सहन में जमीन भासमान का अन्तर है। यही नहीं कि केवल उनके भविष्य की चिन्ता की जाये बल्कि हमारी सेनाओं के पुनर्गठन के ऊपर भी विचार किया जाना चाहिये।

मुझ मालूम है कि कुछ सैनिक अफसर लोग बाहर के मुल्कों में सैनिकों से बिल्कुल अलग रहते हैं। यहां तक कि हिन्दुस्तान के सैनिक अफसर ने बाहर के मुल्कों में सैनिकों के साथ भोजन करने से भी इन्कार कर दिया था। वहां पर उसका बड़ा मजाक उड़ाया जाता है। जब तक इस तरह का भेदभाव कायम रहेगा तब तक इस देश में सेनाओं का नैतिक बल ऊंचा नहीं किया जा सकता। यह जरूरी है कि हमारे देश के सैनिक, हमारे देश के सिपाही इस बात को समझे कि वे रहें या न रहें, हिन्दुस्तान की जनता उनकी चिन्ता के लिये मौजूद है, यहां के लोग उनकी चिन्ता करने के लिये मौजूद हैं। जब तक ऐसी अवस्था हमारी फौजों में नहीं होगी, जब तक इस तरह के भाव उनके अन्दर नहीं पैदा होंगे, तब तक उनको ठीक से लड़ाया नहीं जा सकता। मुझे मालूम है कि कितना बड़ा युद्ध हमारे ऊपर आया है। मैंने बहुत से सैनिकों से जाकर बातचीत की। उनसे पूछा तो वे कहते हैं कि क्या करें, हम पेट के लिये नौकरो पर जा रहे हैं। उन्हें देश की चिन्ता नहीं। भविष्य की चिन्ता नहीं। वे समझते हैं कि वे फौजों में जायेंगे तो मरेगे। वे यह भी समझते हैं कि उनके मरने के बाद उनकी श्रीलादों को, उनके बीबी बच्चों को देखने वाला कोई नहीं है। फिर भी वे जाते हैं। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि सिर्फ बहस इस बात की नहीं है कि उनकी पेंशनों को और बढ़ाया जाये उनकी सुविधायें बढ़ाई

[श्री सरजू पाण्डेय]

जायें। बल्कि यह भी हमें देखना पड़ेगा कि हमारी फौजों का पुनर्गठन किया जाये।

अन्य मुल्कों की फौजों को देखिये, उनके काम को देखिये तो हमारे यहां से बहुत अधिक अन्तर पायेंगे। हमारे यहां कौजियों की कोई शिक्षा नहीं, उनके यहां कोई उत्साह नहीं। यों ही वे भर लिये जाते हैं और भूने के बाद गाजर मूलों की तरह से उनको फौजों में डाल दिया जाता है। उनके अन्दर कोई चेतना नहीं पैदा की जाती, उनके अन्दर कोई उत्साह पैदा नहीं किया जाता, उन्हें मालूम नहीं होता कि वे रहें या न रहें, मगर उनके बाल बच्चों की चिन्ता करने वाला कोई है।

इसलिये जैसा श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी ने कहा, इसके लिये कमेटी बनाई जाये, जांच की जाये और देखा जाये कि दरअस्त उन सेनाओं में जो लोग अपाहिज हो जाते हैं, लंगड़े हो जाते हैं, लूले हो जाते हैं, मारे जाते हैं, उनके परिवार का किस तरह से काम चलाया जाये। मुझे मालूम है कि मेरे ही जिले के एक गांव से हजारों सैनिक आज भी मोर्चों पर हैं और जाते रहते हैं। लेकिन अगर देखा जाये तो नैनीताल में जाकर वे पड़े हुए हैं। उनके थोड़ी सी जमीनें दे दी गई हैं, कुछ उनको कर्ज दे दिया गया। वे बिचारे न खेती कर पाते हैं न उनको ज्यादा कर्ज दिया जाता है। पैदावार होने से पहले कर्ज की वसूलियां शुरू हो जाती हैं। नतीजा यह होता है कि हजारों लोग जिनको नैनीताल में जमीनें दी गई हैं, मारे मारे फिरते हैं और उनके बीबी बच्चे भीख मांगते फिरते हैं। ऐसी दशा अगर कायम रहेगी तो लाजिमी तौर पर देश के अन्दर फौज का स्तर ऊंचा नहीं उठाया जा सकता।

मेरा दूसरा निवेदन यह है कि जब हम फौजियों को ट्रेन करें, जब उन्हें शिक्षित करें

तो उनमें यह भी प्रचार करना चाहिये कि वे किस काम के लिये हैं। उनमें कुछ नैतिक शिक्षा भी होनी चाहिये जिससे वे देश के लिये लड़ सकें और मर सकें। इन चीजों का हमारी सेना में अभाव है। इसलिये हमको यह जिम्मेदारी लेनी पड़ेगी, इस सदन को, इस विभाग को जिम्मेदारी लेनी पड़ेगी कि जो लोग सेनाओं में हैं, जो लंगड़े, लूले और अपाहिज हो जाते हैं उनके बीबी बच्चों के लिये सुविधायें प्रदान की जायेंगी। साथ ही उनमें उत्साह भी पैदा करना होगा, उनमें समझदारी पैदा करनी पड़ेगी कि उन के लिये देश में कोई चिन्ता करने वाला है।

इसलिये इस सिलसिले में हमारे भाइयों ने जो सुझाव रखे हैं, उन के ऊपर बोल कर मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता। मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ कि एक कमेटी फौरन बनाई जाये और इसकी जांच की जाये और उनके लिये सुविधायें दी जायें। यह नहीं होना चाहिये कि मंत्री महोदय आश्वासन दिला दें कि ठीक है आप प्रस्ताव वापस ले लीजिये, मैं विचार करूंगा। विचार तो होते ही रहते हैं लेकिन विचार होते होते सदियों गुजर जाते हैं। यह मौका ऐसा है कि सरकार को ऐलान करना चाहिये कि इन फौजियों को, उनके बच्चों को काम दिलाने के लिये, उनकी शिक्षा और रहायश का इन्तजाम करने के लिये, कौन कौन से कदम उठाये जायेंगे। इस संकटकाल में कुछ राज्यों में सुना गया है कि उनके बच्चों की फीस माफ की गई है, कुछ राज्यों में उनको कुछ जमीनें भी दी गई हैं और कुछ अन्य सुविधायें दी गई हैं, लेकिन इससे काम नहीं चलेगा। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि सरकार फौरन कदम उठावे और ऐलान करे ताकि सेना में उत्साह पैदा हो और वह देश के लिये अपनी जान कुर्बान करे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ ॥

Shri Ansar Harvani (Bisauli): I take this opportunity of congratulating my hon. friend, Shri. Sharda Mukerjee, on bringing forward this Resolution. It is one thing to think of the sufferings of the retired men of our army, navy and air force; it is quite another to come into direct and close touch with them. Here is the wife of one of the founders of our Indian Air Force who herself has seen the sufferings of our retired soldiers, airmen and navymen. When she speaks, she does so with authority. She speaks with personal knowledge and the House has every right—in fact, it is its duty—to accept her at her word.

As I said in the very beginning, it is one thing to think of their sufferings in an academic way; it is quite another to come into closer touch with them. I have seen retired soldiers marching from their barracks, from the garrisons, from cantonments, with a gloomy look, with a gloomy face, thinking of their future, the future of their families, wives and children. We often talk of the valiant deeds of our soldiers; we often pay our tribute to those brave soldiers who stand at 10,000 and 15,000 ft. in the Himalayas, half buried in snow, fighting against the Chinese and also defending our frontiers in Kashmir against Pakistan. We often pay our tribute to our soldiers who have fought in almost every part of the world and shown the valour of the Indian people. We often pay our tribute to those soldiers who have made India great and noble before the whole world. But how many times have we cared to see what happens to their families after their retirement, what happens to their families after their death, what happens to their families after they are wounded? It is a matter of shame and disgust that those soldiers who fight for our freedom, who defend our freedom, who have dedicated their lives to defend the integrity and

honour of this great and ancient country of ours are neglected; if they are wounded, their families are thrown on the streets and they almost starve. If they die, their children have no means of getting any occupation, no means of having even two pieces of bread; they are thrown on the street. After these soldiers retire, they spend their old age in poverty and near-starvation.

I know India is a poor country. I know our financial resources are very meagre. I know it may be very difficult to balance our budget if we increase considerably their pension. But I know no sacrifice is too great to give these people a sense of security after their retirement or give their families a sense of security after their death. I am sure the people of this country, the Parliament of this country, will accept any sacrifice for providing relief and security to our airmen, soldiers and navymen who are fighting for the honour of the country.

This is a subject which does not need a lot of pleading. Almost the entire House is unanimous that something has got to be done for our wounded, for our dead and for our retired soldiers. I am sure the hon. Minister of Defence Production who is here will accept the Resolution. This will give a message of hope, cheer and courage to those soldiers who are defending our borders with China and Pakistan.

श्री अण्णल मिह (कैराना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्रीमती मुखर्जी को इस बात के लिए मुबारकवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने हम गरीबों के लिए, हमारा ध्यान करके यह प्रस्ताव पेश किया है। खेतों में काम करने वाले लोगों, फौजा में लड़ने वाले लोगों के हित के लिए वह यह चीज लायीं . . .

श्री अण्णल मिह : जब आप अपने को गरीब कहते हैं तो और लोग आपकी तरफ देख कर हंसे हैं। जब आप अपने को गरीब

[भाष्यल महोदय]

कहते हैं तो मेम्बरों का रिएक्शन क्या होता है यह आप देखें।

श्री वापस सि : यह तो उन खानसामों की ड्रेस है जो कि उनके पीछे पाछे चलते हैं। तो मैं श्रीमती मुखर्जी को इसके लिए मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि वह लड़ने वालों का खयाल करके यह प्रस्ताव लायीं।

दरअसल तो देश की आजादी वही लोग लाए हैं जो कि देश के लिए मरे हैं। उनकी इज्जत इसी तरह से हो सकती है कि जो उनके आश्रित हैं उनके लिए इन्तिजाम हो। हमारा देश इस मामले में सब से पीछे है। मैंने एक सिपाही से बात की तो उसने कहा कि जब मैं अपनी फैमिली से अलग रहता हूँ तो मुझे २५ रुपया सेरेणेशन एलाउंस मिलता है, लेकिन जब मेजर साहब अपनी फैमिली से अलग रहते हैं तो उनको १२५ रुपया सेरेणेशन एलाउंस मिलता है। आज भी हालत यह है कि एस० पी० के छोड़े के लिये जितना एलाउंस दिया जाता है, उससे कम पेंशन सिपाही को मिलती है जो हमारे नौजवान लड़ कर मर जाते हैं उनके बच्चों के लिये उसे से कम पेंशन मिलती है जो कि एस० पी० के छोड़े के लिये एलाउंस दिया जाता है। मेरा सुझाव है कि इस काम के लिये कई कमेटी न बनायी जाए, बल्कि एक कानून बनाया जाए जिसके मुताबिक यह काम हो। अगर कमेटी बनेंगे तो वही हालत होंगे जो कि पार्लामेंटल सफरर्स की हो रह है। जिस तरह से वहाँ भाई भतीजावाद चलता है वैसे ही यहाँ भी चलेगा। तो जो सिपाही मारे जाते हैं उनके आश्रितों के लिए कानून बनाया जाए जिसके अनुसार उनको पेंशन मिले। इन लोगों को कुर्बानी से ही आजादी आई है और उन्हीं

की कुर्बानी से यह पीघा सरसन्ध है। एक बार विस्मार्क ने कहा था :

The blood of martyrs is the cement in the foundation of nations.

आजादी की बुनियाद हमारे जवान ही अपनी कुर्बानी से डालते हैं।

इस सदन में आज मे पले कई बार चर्चा आई है और मैंने भी यही कहा है कि आई० एन० ए० के सिपाहियों का ६० लाख रुपया सरकार नहीं देती है। उनका ६० लाख रुपया सरकार उम्मीद करे बैठी है। ये लोग नेनाजी मुभाष बोरस की आज्ञा पर इस देश के लिये कुर्बान होने को तैयार हुए थे। उन में से बहुत से मारे गए, बहुतों की हड्डियों तक का पता नहीं है, बहुतों का नाम पता नहीं है। सरकार और चोगां पर कराड़ों भरबों रुपया बगैर कुछ खर्च कर देती है। इन सदन में दो दिन पहले बताया गया था कि एक अरब ३२ करोड़ रुपया इसलिए वापस कर दिया गया कि वह फौज में खर्च नहीं किया जा सका, वह सरप्लस था। लेकिन देश के लिये लड़ने वाले लोगों को यह ६० लाख रुपया नहीं दिया जा सकता। अगर देश की आजादी को जिन्दा रखना है और दुश्मन का मुकाबला करना है तो इस प्रस्ताव के अनुसार जो श्रीमती मुखर्जी ने पेश किया है उनकी पेंशनें और उनकी ग्रेड्स बढ़ायें जायें। अगर हम यह सांचें कि इसके लिये एक कमेटी और बनें और एन्क्वायरो हो, तो यह मसला सालों का हो जायगा। आज तो सरकार को इस मसले पर फौरन गौर करना चाहिये और जो लोग शहोद हुए हैं उनके आश्रितों के लिये इन्तिजाम करना चाहिये। मैं एक फैमिली को जानता हूँ, भगत सिंह की फैमिली को। भगत सिंह शहोद हुए, उनके चाचा स्वर्ण सिंह क्लायत से आए और जैसे ही उनकी पार्टीशन की खबर मिली तो उनके दिल को छड़कन रुक गयो। इस फैमिली

का कोई बच्चा नहीं है जिसने दस ११ साल की जेल न काटी हो। उनके आश्रित मुश्किल से दस बारह बीघे जमीन पर खेती करके अपनी गुजर करते हैं। भगत सिंह की समाधि के लिये दो लाख रुपये खर्च करने की बात कही गयी थी, लेकिन आज तक कुछ नहीं किया गया और फीरोज़पुर में उनकी समाधि नंगी पड़ी हुई है और उस पर धूल उड़ती है।

तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप देश की आजादी को कायम रखना चाहते हैं तो फौजियों की पेंशन बढ़ाइये, जो लोग शहीद हुए हैं उनके आश्रितों को पेंशन दी जिये और जिन लोगों को बड़ी बड़ी तनख्वाहें मिल रही हैं, जैसे टाटा के जनरल मैनेजर को ४८ हजार रुपया महीना तनख्वाह मिलती है या बिड़ला के यहां कुछ लोगों को बाइस बाइस लाख सालाना तनख्वाह मिलती है, उसको कम किया जाये। गांधी जी के अनुसार मंत्रियों को पांच सौ से ज्यादा तनख्वाह न लेनी चाहिये और इस तरह जो रुपया बचे वह फौज के जवानों के आश्रितों को दिया जाये, जिन्होंने कि देश के लिये कुर्बानी दी है।

सरकार ने कहा था कि जिनके बच्चे शहीद हुए हैं उनके वरों पर बाकायदा मिनिस्टर लोग जायेंगे लेकिन मैं अपने इलाके की बात जानता हूँ, वे लोग मेरे रिश्तेदार हैं, १४ बच्चे जो कि ऊंची पोजीशन पर थे शहीद हुए, लेकिन मिनिस्टर तो क्या तहसीलदार तक उनके घर पर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करने नहीं गया। जो लोग शहीद हुए उनके लिये तो इससे अच्छी और मौत नहीं हो सकती थी। गीता में कहा गया है :

सुखिन, क्षत्रियाः पार्थ लभन्ते युद्ध मीदृशम्

इसी तरह गीता में यह भी कहा गया है :

हृतो वा प्राप्स्यसि स्वर्गं जित्वा वा
शोक्यसे महीम्

यानी अगर युद्ध में मारा जायेगा तो स्वर्ग को जायेगा और जीतेगा तो पृथ्वी पर राज्य करेगा मगर ये लोग जो शहीद हुए इनको और कोई ख्वाहिश नहीं थी। ये तो सिर्फ देश की आजादी के लिये शहीद हुए। लेकिन इनके घर वालों की खबर लेने वाला कोई नहीं है। उनके भोजन वस्त्र का इन्तजाम नहीं किया जा रहा है और कहा जाता है कि इनके घरों पर मिनिस्टर जायेंगे। पंजाब में तो मिनिस्टर गए हैं, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में १४ घरानों को मैं जानता हूँ जिनके यहां कोई छोटे से छोटा अफसर तक नहीं गया। यह चीजें हैं जिनकी कि तरफ गौर करना चाहिये। जवान जो कि फौज में भरती होकर लड़ते हैं, देश की रक्षा की खातिर अपनी जान की बाजी लगाते हैं, सरकार को उनकी हालत में सुधार करना चाहिये। उनकी तनख्वाहों और पेंशनों आदि को बढ़ाने का एक ही कायदा है और वह यह कि जो बड़े बड़े आदमी हैं जिनके कि पास अरबों रुपया है उन से रुपया लिया जाकर डिफेंस में लगाया जाय। छोटे तनख्वाहदारों से इसके लिये चंदा करना जरूरी नहीं है। छोटे लोगों से रुपया न लिया जाय बल्कि जो बड़े बड़े अरबपति और करोड़पति हैं उनसे इसके लिये रुपया लिया जाय और इस तरह से उन फौजी जवानों की तनख्वाहें और पेंशन बढ़ाई जायें।

श्री रघुनाथ सि.३ (बाराणसी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस सदन का ध्यान उन लोगों की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जो कि न तो जमीन पर रहते हैं, न आसमान पर रहते हैं बल्कि समुद्र की लहर पर रहते हैं। कुल १६००० आदमों हमारी नौवीं में इस बक्त काम करते हैं जिनमें से १४५० आफिसर्स क्लास के हैं। अब उन आफिसर्स क्लास के बारे में तो जो कुछ कहना नहीं है लेकिन १४५५० रेटिम्स के बारे में मैं जरूर प्लीड करना चाहूंगा जिनके कि सम्बन्ध में हमारी बहन का यह प्रस्ताव उपस्थित है।

[श्री रघुनाथ सिंह]

रेटिम्स में पार्टीशन के पहले बंगाल के लोग ज्यादा होते थे और वे मुसलमान लोग होते थे। लेकिन अब अगर आप देखें तो रेटिम्स में उन की तादाद कम हो गयी है। चूंकि उन को तनख्वाहें बहुत कम मिलती हैं इसलिए ज्यादा तादाद आप को यह सुन कर आश्चर्य होगा कि पंजाब, यू० पी, बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश के लोगों की है। यहां के लोग रेटिम्स में ज्यादा हो गये हैं। रेटिम्स में १६ वर्ष की उम्र के लड़के भरती होते हैं। अगर १६-१८ वर्ष की उम्र के लड़के उस में भरती न हों तो समुद्री हवा उन को मुआफिक नहीं हो सकती है और वहां पर काम नहीं कर सकते हैं। रेटिम्स अपने घर से दूर, सूबे से दूर जहाज पर और समुद्र की लहर पर रहते हैं। लहरों पर काम करते हैं। कभी कभी तो ऐसा होता है कि तीन, तीन महीने जहाज पर ही उन को बीत जाते हैं। सिवाय पानी के और कुछ वह देख नहीं पाते हैं। इस के अलावा जहाज की लाइफ़ कोई अच्छी लाइफ़ नहीं है। हमेशा धुआं निकलता रहता है, काफ़ी उस में गरमी होती है। हमारे जहाज एयर कंडीशंड नहीं होते हैं। वहां इतनी गरमी होती है कि अगर सिविलियन लोग वहां पर जायें तो शायद ७ दिन से ज्यादा वह जहाज पर नहीं रह सकते हैं। इस के विपरीत जो आदमी आर्मी में होते हैं सिनेमा, थियेटर आदि देख सकते हैं, शहर में इधर उधर घूम फिर भी सकते हैं। इसी तरह एयर फ़ोर्स में जो आदमी भरती होते हैं, हवाई जहाज में काम करते हैं वह भी १२ घंटे मुतवातिर तो उड़ नहीं सकते हैं, तीन, चार घंटे के बाद जमीन पर उतर आते हैं और सिनेमा, थियेटर और शहर के अन्य मनोरंजन आदि से दिल बहलाव कर लिया करते हैं लेकिन जो आदमी पानी के जहाज पर है वह बेचारा कहा जायेगा ? उस के वास्ते तो बस वह ४०० फिट लम्बा और ८० फिट चौड़ा जहाज ही सब कुछ है।

वही उस का सर्वस्व है। सिवाय पानी के वह कुछ देखता नहीं है।

यह देखा गया है कि १६ वर्ष की अवस्था से जबकि वह नेवी में भरती होते हैं, ४०, ५० वर्ष की अवस्था तक हमेशा समुद्र में ही रहते हैं। खारे पानी की आबोहवा उस को मिलती है। नतीजा यह होता है कि जब वह रेटिंग रिटायर होता है और जब वह पंजाब, बिहार या मध्यप्रदेश का आदमी घर पर आता है तो वह खेती करने लायक नहीं रह जाता है क्योंकि सारा जीवन उस का समुद्र की आबोहवा और खारे पानी में बीता है। रिटायर हो कर जब वह सूखे देश में आता है तो उस को उस आबोहवा में अपने को ऐडजस्ट करने के लिए ४, ५ साल लग जाते हैं और फल यह होता है कि वह ४, ५ वर्ष मुश्किल से आगे जिन्दा रह पाता है। थोड़े साल में ही उस की मृत्यु हो जाती है। इस के विपरीत जो आर्मी से रिटायर होता है वह ज्यादा दिन तक जीता रहता है और रेटिम्स के मुकाबले सरकार से ज्यादा पेंशन लेता है। उस के बाद एयरफ़ोर्स से रिटायर होने वाला आदमी भी उस के मुकाबले ज्यादा पेंशन लेता है। सब से कम पेंशन अगर कोई फौज वाला लेता है तो यह रेटिम्स ले पाते हैं क्योंकि यह ज्यादा दिन तक जिन्दा नहीं रह पाते हैं। उन का जीवन समुद्र के खारे पानी और धूप में रहते रहते सूख जाता है और अपेक्षाकृत कम दिन जिंदा रह पाता है। चूंकि वह खेती करने काबिल नहीं रहता है इसलिए वह उतनी कम पेंशन में अपना जीवन यापन नहीं कर सकता है। इसलिये मेरा अदब से निवेदन है कि यह जो १४५०० आदमी हैं, यह कोई ज्यादा तादाद नहीं है और अगर हिसाब लगा कर देखेंगे तो आप पायेंगे कि चूंकि रिटायर होने के बाद यह ज्यादा साल तक जिन्दा नहीं रह पाते हैं, इसलिए यह आर्मी के अन्य लोगों की

अपेक्षा बहुत कम पेंशन सरकार से ले पाते हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर औसतन रिटायरी के बाद ५ वर्ष का उन का जीवन होता है तो उन को को पेंशन की शकल में इतना तो मिलना ही चाहिए जिस से वे कम से कम अपना पेट भर सकें। इसलिए हियुमैनिटी का तकाजा है कि सरकार उन के केस पर सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार करे और उन रेटिम्स के लिए जॉकि समुद्र पर ४० साल तक काम करते हैं और रिटायर होने के बाद कुछ साल ही जिन्दा रह पाते हैं, उन को जीवन यापन लायक पेंशन सरकार को देनी चाहिये। यह १४५०० की तादाद भी कोई ज्यादा नहीं है और उन को पेंशन में कुछ अधिक बढ़ोत्तरी करने में सरकार को विशेष दिक्कत नहीं होनी चाहिए। कम से कम इतनी पेंशन तो उन्हें दें ही जिससे वह आराम से मर सकें। ४, ५ साल में उसकी जिन्दगी खत्म हो जाती है तो उतने अर्से वह कम से कम भूखा तो न मरे। अब इसके लिए अगर कोई कमिशन, कमेटी या कोई अन्य समिति बिठानी हो तो आप बैठायें लेकिन यह १४५०० की तादाद कोई बहुत बड़ी तादाद नहीं है और उनके वास्ते आप को कोई न कोई समुचित व्यवस्था अवश्य करनी चाहिये।

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur):
Sir, I do congratulate Mrs. Sharda Mukerjee for having got an opportunity to move such a fine resolution. We all try to move resolutions and give notice of resolutions, but we do not succeed. She is very fortunate. It is really a very great slur on our administration that the army men do not get proper pensions. I remember a case. I had a chowkidar, who was getting a pension of only Rs. 3. I had to maintain that man till he died by giving him Rs. 15 from my pocket every month. It is very hard during these days to maintain oneself on Rs. 3. What will he do with Rs. 3? How can a man maintain himself on 48 annas a month, which is much less than what Dr. Lohia said the other day; it is not even 3 annas a day,

which Dr. Lohia mentioned. Such a miserable condition is inconceivable in our country. That ought not to be tolerated any longer. Things have changed. Things are nearly ten times as costly as they were in 1939 and we have paid no consideration whatsoever to the rate of pensions that an ordinary army man should get. This land policy of our Government has created a greater hell than could have been conceived.

The difficulties are more numerous nowadays. Most of the army men in olden days were holding small *jagirs*. Although he was called a *jagirdar*, a man was hardly holding 2, 3 or 4 bighas of land. 10 bighas was considered the maximum which a man could hold. But even that has been taken away, because the abolition of *jagirdari* has been put against him, Either it was a war against a caste or against a class, I cannot say. But it was a war against the Rajput community, against the fighting, martial races of Rajasthan. They have been deprived of their small means of livelihood that was provided to them for having fought the war of the old rulers. They do the same for the present rulers. What is this pension? That which was provided to them hereditarily, that which was given from generation to generation has been taken away. We are showing a sort of solicitude today just to increase rupees, annas, pies after having deprived them of their land which was more tangible and which could last longer. I should say we must look upon this thing in its proper perspective.

Some suggestions are coming that we may provide them with some sort of gifts of lands, that gifts of lands may be made to these people. I have heard that at some places it is being talked about with some State Governments. But I find that by the other door you are making a low providing the definition of "estate" so wide that you can take away a ryot's one bigha or two bighas. For what? I cannot conceive of. I somehow or other start

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

doubting the honesty behind the purpose. Why should you take away the land of these poor people? Why should you make a law which allows you to take away the land. If taking away is to be done, even today you have the right under the Land Acquisition Act. Why do you make a law and make a laughing-stock of yourself by saying that you can take away their land by paying them what you like, that you can pay them one anna or even half anna per bigha. Even today a good piece of cloth is not available to them and you want to pay them one anna or two annas for their land (*Interruption*). My friends on this side are laughing. They have no idea of the miseries of the people in the villages. They are only guided by one consideration, the consideration of international communism, the idea that they have got from some other country. They think in those terms. They do not think in terms of the Indian nation. They do not think in terms of the miseries of the Indian people. They must look down with shame and they must not raise their heads. It is only those who live in villages that realise what is happening in our country, how our people are suffering, how their land is being snatched away because they happen to be villagers. Nobody goes to support them.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh (Rajnandgaon): Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee whole-heartedly for moving this resolution which was very badly wanted by the armed forces. Perhaps you know, Sir, I have been associated with Indian forces since 1933.

Mr. Speaker: Raja Saheb may resume his seat for a second. I must put it to Professor Ranga, because he asked about the time, that I have no authority to reduce the time that has been fixed by the House. The House has given me authority to extend it by one hour and not to reduce it in any

case. And, he was not here when many hon. Members wanted an extension of the time allotted, what to say of reduction. Therefore, there is no chance of his resolution being taken up.

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: I have to tell the House that so far as the services are concerned, whether it is the army or the navy or the air force, the pension rules are really most inadequate. In all other countries, I have been reading from papers, whether British, American or Soviet Union, within the last ten or 15 years they have thrice completely revised the scale of pay and pension rules. They have also revised their rules regarding salary, health benefits and other things. But, unfortunately, in that direction we have not done much. Perhaps, one thing has not been fully appreciated by the Ministry of Defence, that so far as the recruiting side is concerned, it is not the officers, it is not the Ministry of Defence who really do the recruiting, it is the retired officers who do it. I can say that recruiting can never be successful without them. What is happening today is, we see that most of the retired officers are in a pathetic condition. When they go to the tehsildars to collect their pension, even if it is Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 as Shri Trivedi has said, they are not given their pension in time. The man has to go from his village 15 to 20 miles and sometimes 50 miles to draw that petty pension of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 and he is being asked by these officers who are in charge, according to the Treasury Rules or a variety of rules, to some the next day or the day after that. So, they do not get the pension in time, leave alone the widows who do not get the pension for days together. This is the state of things which is prevalent and which is very bad. It is affecting our recruiting.

It is said that recruiting is coming forth very well but I can say that re-

cruiting is confined only to one or two States. It is not from all the States as it used to be in the past. Now it is confined only to one or two States. Recruiting should be as much as is possible. However, I would only say that. These retired Army officers' families do not get any help or medical facilities.

So far as the pension rules are concerned, they must be changed. An appropriate committee should be appointed. It should not be confined only to people from the Ministry of Defence but some Members of Parliament should also be associated with it. I can say with all the emphasis at my command that I have been a member of the NCC Board for the last three years and I have hardly attended one meeting.

Some Hon. Members: Why?

Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh: We are never invited and it met only once. We are there just for show. It is all a *tamasha*. Therefore if such a committee is appointed, Members of Parliament must be associated with it. We know what the rules are and we will be able to help and guide them. The pay and the pension must be according to the cost of living index. It is very necessary. Unless and until we do that, we will not be able to build up the morale of our forces. The morale of the forces depends on that. It is wrong to say that the morale of the forces depends on anything else. The morale of the forces depends on the persons who have been with them for so many years. If they come back and see their own kith and kin are dying of hunger and thirst and have no medical relief, it does not build the morale of the forces.

My hon. friend, Shri Trivedi, said that previously they used to get *jagirs* or *zamin*. I know of Madhya Bharat and other places where they used to get *jagirs*. Sometimes it used to be 50 or 60 acres, even 100 acres. That was so also in the Punjab. I

know of Patiala and one or two other States where they used to give *jagirs* to the ex-Army officers because they used to do the recruiting. But since the land reforms have been brought about, most of the *jagirs* have been taken away and the pensions have not been increased. So, the Government should go into this. I have every hope that the Ministry will take it up.

I personally would have thought that this should be passed unanimously and the Government should appoint a committee. In view of the emergency let this be acted upon very quickly. It will add to the morale of the forces because they will feel that we are really thinking of them. Therefore I appeal to the Ministry to act very quickly. If it is postponed to the next session then I would like Shri Raghuramaiah, the hon. Minister of Defence Production, to come with a concrete proposal as to what the salary and pension should be for the jawans; similarly, for the airmen and the Naval ratings. This is not the time to be wasted. It is most important from the point of view of recruitment, morale and everything. I therefore wholeheartedly support the Resolution moved by Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Support my amendment also.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the desire of the House that this should be continued during the next Session also?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: What would be the time then by which the House will desire to extend it?

Some Hon. Members: One hour more.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): 1 hour and 15 minutes more.

Mr. Speaker: All right; this is extended by one hour more. **Shri Sheo Narain.**

श्री शिव नारायण (बांसी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्या, श्रीमती शारदा मुकुर्जी, को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने ऐसे पवित्र रेज़ोल्यूशन को इस हाउस के सामने पेश किया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य राज धन्यवाद तक ही रहने दें, बाकी फिर कहें ।

17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) FOOD AND SUGAR SITUATION IN WEST BENGAL

Mr. Speaker: I take up this adjournment motion now. May I enquire from Mr. Banerjee—he had put a question to me in the morning whether I desired to convert this adjournment motion into a calling attention notice—whether he is agreeable to that?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I only submit that we want a discussion on this because the prices....

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing. I must tell him beforehand that if I take this adjournment motion and then after hearing the Minister I come to a decision that that cannot be taken up, or I reject it, then I shall not be able to convert it into the calling attention notice and there would be no questions then by the Members who have signed this. Therefore, they are warned about those consequences that might follow. So, that would stand or fall on its merits.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have only one submission to make. Before you allow the Minister to make a statement, I may say there are some points which are agitating our mind. Either we should be allowed to put those points to him or let him make a statement and then..

Mr. Speaker: He has given the source of his information and that is the *Times of India* dated the 20th September—page 7. This is his information. I cannot allow him to discuss it before I have given sanction to it. Now, I am calling upon the Minister to give facts. Then, I have to take a decision whether I can take this up as an adjournment motion or not. If I reject it, in that case, he will not be allowed to put any questions. That is what I was asking him to consider.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpur): The only point is that this particular news item is reflecting what has been stated by the State Finance Minister. Therefore, this really stands on a different footing. I would have no objection if it is turned into a calling attention notice provided it is a satisfactory....

Mr. Speaker: That is to be seen. But the hon. Member would kindly realise that a statement of a Minister cannot by itself be a subject for an adjournment motion. It might raise certain issues and that we have to decide on merits when the statement is made. Therefore, if they are agreeable, I am prepared to convert it into a calling attention notice.

So, it is a calling attention notice. The hon. Minister.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Serampore): These are very important matters for the public of the State of West Bengal and they require discussion. You may find some opportunity for having this matter discussed.

Mr. Speaker: It is converted into a calling attention notice. The hon. Minister.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact I have seen the press statement and I was rather surprised to see the statement because if there was any