

RESOLUTION RE PROMOTION OF
RIFLE TRAINING

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Shri Ramachandra Reddi on the 18th December 1953:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should provide facilities for promotion of rifle training, *inter alia* by—

- (a) subsidising the National Rifle Association and providing it with necessary aid, in the shape of arms and ammunitions and otherwise;
- (b) co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year;
- (c) relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs; and
- (d) relaxing the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly".

We are starting just at 4.35. How many minutes the hon. Member will take?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Probably about 15 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long is the Minister going to take?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: The Minister is not available here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In between, I have got a number of hon. Members who want to speak—as many as nine or ten. Even if I allot ten minutes each, it will come to 1½ hours. So I will give five minutes to each Member. (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members who prepare the speeches can speak very well in five minutes

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Some of us would prefer to be left out rather than be given five minutes. I would withdraw from the list.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. I will proceed in the order in which it has been given here. I generally say five minutes. An hon. Member—whoever is on his legs—will appreciate that if he is making a good point, he may continue; otherwise he may decide for himself and sit down.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Sir, I do not know if the Home Ministry is represented on the Treasury Benches just now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Who is the hon. Minister who represents Government on this Resolution?

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Sardar Majithia.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Not on the Rifle Resolution, but on the second one. The Home Ministry is concerned with the first resolution.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Then let the House stand adjourned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then some Minister will kindly note it down. It is the concern of the Home Ministry.

Shri P. S. Naskar (Diamond Harbour—Reserved—Sch. Castes): The Minister is on his way.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: On the 18th December last, I had just an opportunity of moving this Resolution, but I could not speak on it at some length. The object of this Resolution is very simple, it being to develop marksmanship in the youth of India. To achieve that object, there are other suggestions, namely, to subsidise or encourage the National Rifle Association, to co-ordinate the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force, to relax import restrictions and minimise the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs, and to relax the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly.

The National Rifle Association, which has been started about the year 1951 or so, has been doing some good work in creating enthusiasm amongst young men to take to rifle training. Amongst the objects the following seem to be prominent: (a) imparting military education, including rifle training, to the young generation with a view to develop in the youths qualities of fearlessness, discipline, *esprit de corps*, resourcefulness, and public service, (b) to impart knowledge of physical culture and sports to build up healthy bodies, steady hands and eyes, good nerves and self-confidence. (c) to organise, help or recognise Military Academies, (d) to popularise the knowledge and proper use of firearms. (e) to popularise the use of arms in proper (regulated and disciplined) manner for the purpose of self-defence. (f) to disseminate the knowledge of correct aiming, particularly among agriculturists to enable them to protect their cattle and crops from wild animals, for training the eye and the hand, (g) to establish or to co-operate in the establishment of rifle ranges in different parts of the country, (h) to organise shooting competitions, excursions, etc.

With these laudable objects this Association has been developing its activities in the States also. I am told that about six States are actively encouraging the Association to function more effectively. One of the impediments in developing the activities of this Association seems to be that the import duties on rifles and explosives are so high that it is not able to finance them.

I am told that to the extent of 62 per cent. import duties are levied and that makes all the difference in the utilisation of the resources of this Association, which are just in the making. The difference between the costs they have to incur and the costs that Government have really to incur on importing them seems to be nearly 100 to 110 per cent. This distinction between the government imports and the imports through this Association or similar as-

sociations will have to be removed, just to encourage the people as well such associations to use the rifles and ammunition to a greater extent. It might be said that rifle shooting is a sport and therefore, a luxury. We have now come to a time when we should no longer think that it is a luxury. It has become a necessity and every one must be in a position to equip himself with the training in rifle handling. The private sector as well as the military sector will have to be entrusted with the work of defending the country as well as defending themselves. The Indian Arms Act has been there on the statute-book since 1878. Subsequently, certain amendments have been brought about. But, every amendment that has been brought about seems to have restricted more and more the scope of the Arms Act. It is, therefore, very desirable that at this stage a committee should be appointed—however small it might be—to look into the matter of relaxing the provisions of the Arms Act or to scrap the Act itself. We have been accusing the British Government for retaining the Arms Act on the statute-book and one of the planks on which the independence movement fought its way out was the removal of this Arms Act. Even though we achieved independence nearly seven years ago, the question of retaining the Arms Act or of scrapping it has not seriously engaged the attention of the Government. I hope it will soon be found possible for the Government to look into the matter and see that the rules are relaxed or, if possible, the Act itself is scrapped. It is necessary that every man must be equipped with the necessary training for holding a rifle and for using it in times of need. It is sometimes said that in an atomic war there will be no need for rifles. When the 'push-button war' comes in, they say, the rifles will be of no use. But, it so happens that even the push-button operations will have to be conducted by the rifles on the ground and, at no stage, can we remove the human element as well as the need for developing equipment with regard to the handling of rifles.

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi]

Another suggestion made in this connection is that the several shooting ranges that are available in the country now would have to be placed at the disposal of the rifle associations so that they might use them for the training of the members of such associations. There might be, in certain cases, inadequate provision or inadequacy of these ranges. Especially in cities, it is not possible to have access to these ranges by the common man. Some method has to be improvised by which these private associations have access to these public ranges and such ranges should also be adequately improved. If it is necessary that proper control over these associations should be had, rules might be framed by the Government and the rifle associations would be able to act according to those rules. For instance, I may suggest that, to have a proper control over the activities of these associations, the officials in each State or district might be entrusted with the work of developing these associations.

The officials may be *ex officio* members of rifle clubs in each district;

Membership of the club should precede the approval of the District Magistrate or the president of the club;

Every Rifle Club should be affiliated to the National Rifle Association to be eligible for Government aid;

Any educational institutions having similar activities wishing to have rifle clubs started, should get the approval of the District Magistrate;

These clubs should be assisted financially or otherwise to enable them to work satisfactorily and regularly and efficiently;

In Universities and Colleges such rifle clubs might be formed and encouraged;

Government might issue directions to the State Governments to organise or encourage the organisation of such clubs in each district and parts of the district and in colleges;

The assistance of military or police officers available in the region should

be afforded for training the members.

Wherever possible, the Army, Police and magisterial officers should be directed to organise and assist such clubs;

Import facilities and reduction of import duty for the arms that are imported or purchased for the use of such clubs, should be given.

Finance is usually the greatest impediment to the organisation of such associations. The Government come forward and say that it might not be possible for them to afford large financial assistance to associations or branches of this type. I would only say that if the Government can make up its mind to organise these associations, in whatever small way it might be, with financial and other assistance that I have suggested already, public donations might be coming forward and such associations might be built up and made strong and useful for the country's cause.

As it is, a person keeping a fire-arm is subjected to all sorts of difficulties. It looks as if the possessor of a revolver will have to protect the revolver more than protect himself with the revolver, because the rules are so strict and the police, if they are not properly disposed towards the possessor of the revolver or a fire-arm, is prone to put the possessor to all sorts of difficulties, with the result that one does not like to have a fire-arm at all. In this view, the vigilance of the police, wherever it is unnecessary, may be withdrawn. If need be, in due course of time the rifle clubs, or the National Rifle Association might be made a statutory body with functions that will be controlled by the Government. And, through that control and a healthy development of the Association, the Government should eventually be doing its duty to the country.

I therefore commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House. I may assure the House that this Resolution is not based on any party considerations. Almost all the parties in the House are agreed on this Resolution and I am sure that if freedom of vote

is allowed this Resolution will certainly be passed. Of course, the Government will have a say in the matter. But I hope the Government will come forward and generously accept this Resolution, and find ways and means of implementing it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should provide facilities for promotion of rifle training, *inter alia* by—

- (a) subsidising the National Rifle Association and providing it with necessary aid, in the shape of arms and ammunitions and otherwise;
- (b) co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year;
- (c) relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs; and
- (d) relaxing the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, there are some amendments which have been tabled. I find some of them in order and others out of order. Mr. Samanta may move his amendment.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In Mr. S. N. Das's amendment, the words "such youth movements and activities including" as also "and physical exercise as will go" may be omitted. He may move the amendment omitting those words.

Shri S. N. Das (Darbhanga Central): I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee be appointed by Government to draw up a scheme for developing and promoting rifle training to inculcate a sense of discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India and to suggest ways and means to give effect to the said scheme."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. D. C. Sharma wants to substitute for the original Resolution his own, which has nothing to do with rifles.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): "Marksmanship" means rifle training. I use the general to include the particular.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it mean table tennis. Does marksmanship apply only to rifles?

Anyhow, I shall allow his amendment.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of members of Parliament, educationists and organisers of Youth Welfare agencies be appointed to suggest ways and means with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendments moved:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee be appointed by Government to draw up a scheme for developing and promoting rifle training to inculcate a sense of discipline, marksmanship initiative and leadership in the youth of India and to suggest ways and means to give effect to the said scheme."

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of members of Parliament, educationists and organisers of Youth Welfare agencies be appointed to suggest ways and means with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India."

Mr. Radha Raman may move his amendment omitting the words "national physical development and youth activities including".

Shri Radha Raman (Delhi city): I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should prepare a comprehensive scheme for rifle training, and give effect to it."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long will the Minister take?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): About fifteen minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, this discussion will close at six o'clock. It is now five. I will call upon the hon. Minister at quarter to six. Hon. Members

will try to finish their speeches in five minutes. Amendment moved:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should prepare a comprehensive scheme for rifle training, and give effect to it."

श्री भागवत झा आजाद (पूर्निया ब संघाल परगना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात की बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि मुझे इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करने का आज अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। मैं बिना किसी भूमिका के प्रस्ताव जो हमारे सामने है उस के सब से आखिरी क्लॉज "डी" को लेता हूँ। उस क्लॉज में कहा गया है कि इंडियन आर्म्स ऐक्ट आफ १८७८ में सुधार किया जाय।

यह बात सर्वविदित है कि सन् १८५७ के गदर के बाद से अंग्रेजों की सदा यह कोशिश रही कि इस देश के लोगों के हाथ से हथियार छीन लिये जायें और इसी बात को अपने दिमाग में रख कर उन्होंने ने यह ऐक्ट बनाया था और उस के कारण कानून में इतनी अधिक सख्तियाँ की गईं कि लोगों को आज आर्म्स के मिलने में बहुत असुविधा हो रही है। आज के दिन इस बात की बहुत आवश्यकता है कि इस आर्म्स ऐक्ट में सुधार किया जाय ताकि इस देश के नागरिक कम से कम अपने बचाव के लिए अपनी रक्षा के लिये अपने को तैयार और समर्थ कर सकें और ऐसे रक्षक दल तैयार कर सकें, यह कानून इतना लिबरल हो जाय कि लोगों को आर्म्स अपनी रक्षा के लिये आसानी से मिल सकें। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि आर्म्स के लिये लाइसेंस मिलने में विधान सभा, संसद और कौंसिल आफ स्टेट के

मेम्बर्स को भी मुश्किल पड़ती है। पांच महीने हो गये में ने एक पिस्तौल के लिये ऐप्लाई किया हुआ है, लेकिन आज तक पिस्तौल का लाइसेंस मझे प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। हमें यह कहा गया कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर्स के लिये लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने में कोई मुश्किल नहीं है और यह कार्यवाही तो सिर्फ एक फार्मल चीज है, लेकिन वाक्या यह है कि आप का आर्म्स ऐक्ट ऐसा खराब है जिस के फलस्वरूप आज लाइसेंस मिलने में बड़ी कठिनाई हो रही है और इसलिये रेड्डी साहब के प्रस्ताव का जो "डी" क्लोज है यह बहुत आवश्यक है और इस ऐक्ट में सुधार किया जाना चाहिये।

इस के बाद रेड्डी साहब के प्रस्ताव का जो "सी" क्लोज है उस में दिया हुआ है : *relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs*". इस के पहले कि मैं इस की व्याख्या करूँ मैं आप को बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि क्लब हमारे जीवन के लिये इतने आवश्यक हैं कि अभी अभी सरकार ने यह टेरीटोरियल आर्म्स फ़ोर्स की स्थापना की है जिस के द्वारा सरकार चाहती है कि हर जगह लोगों को सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग दी जाय और इस सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग में इच्छुक नौजवानों को ट्रेनिंग दी जाय और इस सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग इम्पार्ट करने के बाद वह जो सरकारी दल सिखाने वाला है वह चला जायगा और अगर वह ट्रेनिंग देने का काम लोकल राइफल क्लब जारी नहीं रखेंगे तो लोग सात दिन के बाद फिर उसी अवस्था में पहुँच जायेंगे जहाँ वह पहले थे। यह राइफल क्लब बहुत उपयोगी सिद्ध होंगे और यह टेरीटोरियल फ़ोर्स के उस काम को जीता जागता रखेंगे। इसलिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि आर्म्स टेरीटोरियल फ़ोर्स की

एफर्ट्स का लोकल राइफल क्लब्स के साथ कोऑर्डिनेशन हो।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

इस सिलसिले में मैं आप को बताऊँ कि नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन के मातहत जो क्लब्स बंगाल, मध्य प्रदेश, बंगाल, बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में काम कर रहे हैं वह वही काम कर रहे हैं और शिक्षा दे रहे हैं। इस नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन आफ इंडिया के सभापति हमारे इस सदन के अध्यक्ष श्री भावलंकर हैं और श्री के० जी० प्रभु अहमदाबाद के उस के सेक्रेटरी हैं जो इस काम को पिछले सोलह-सत्तरह साल से बड़ी खूबी के साथ चला रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस असोसियेशन को भरपूर सहायता व सहयोग दे और उस को जरूरी आर्म्स सप्लाई करे और इस के लिये यह जो मौजूदा आर्म्स ऐक्ट है इस को लिबरेलाइज किया जाय। इस के अलावा इम्पोर्ट रिस्ट्रिक्शन्स ढीले करने चाहियें और बाहर से जो हथियार आते हैं उन पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी कम की जाय।

अभी हाल में यहाँ पर एक प्रतियोगिता हुई थी और उस प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए जापान के लोग भारत में आये थे और जब वह जापान के चुने हुए आदमी हिन्दुस्तान में आये और हम उन का स्वागत करने के लिये ऐयरोड्रोम पर पहुँचे तो उन के आर्म्स जो वह अपने साथ में लाये थे वहीं रोक लिये गये, हालांकि इंटरनेशनल ला के मुताबिक अगर कोई सज्जन ऐसी प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए आर्म्स लाते हैं तो उन को वह हथियार लाने दिये जाते हैं। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के इस क़ानून के अनुसार जब वह जापानी दल यहाँ आया तो ऐयरोड्रोम पर ही उन के हथियार रोक लिये गये, इस १८७८ के क़ानून की यह खराबी है। जब हम लोगों ने काफ़ी प्रयत्न किया तब कहीं जा कर

[श्री भगवत झा आवाज]

बड़ी मुश्किल से शाम को उन को उन के हथियार वापिस मिल पाये। यह इस ऐक्ट का नमूना है इस ऐक्ट की खूबी का दूसरा नमूना यह है कि मुझे पिस्तौल का लाइसेंस आज पांच महीने हो गये अभी तक नहीं मिला और यह इस ऐक्ट की बलिहारी है कि जो जापानी दल यहां की प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिये आया, उन के हथियार रोक लिये गये। इस के अलावा मैं आप को बतलाऊं कि इस ऐक्ट की खूबी देखिये कि अगर हमारा एम० पी० राइफल क्लब पांच सौ रुपये के करीब के आर्म्स मंगाना चाहता है जिस पर अंदाजा है कि दो सौ रुपये की ड्यूटी बैठ जायगी।

अन्त में मैं और अधिक न कह कर सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन आफ इंडिया को मदद देनी चाहिये और उन को आर्म्स आदि के सप्लाई की सहूलियतें प्रदान करनी चाहियें। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि हमारे दातार साहब इस पर सहानुभूति पूर्वक विचार करेंगे।

5 P.M.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, I support the resolution before the House and I have pleasure in doing so. I am glad this question has been taken up in this House. There is no doubt left in our minds that Pakistan has evil designs on our country. Just the other day, when I was going round in PEPSU in connection with the election meetings, a paper was handed over to me in which a Pakistani had subscribed a poem and conveyed a message to our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, that he should be on his guard now, that Hindus and Sikhs of this country should be on their guard now. He had conveyed in that poem: let them take warning that the Pakistanis are now coming armed with U.S.A. arms and they should not run away from their

positions now. That was the message conveyed in that poem which was read out and handed over to me. Of course I replied at that time that we re-convey our reply to those Pakistanis who have written this poem that "we are prepared for your reception, come as you like, armed with U.S.A. arms or with any that you can yourself produce and we will stand together for your reception because we have had occasion to meet you on many a field".

That was all right so far as the reply was concerned. But I thought within myself whether we are really doing something to meet them or whether it would be only a verbal warfare with them. If they are coming with aeroplanes and with other most modern armaments we would like to know whether our Government is eager and genuine in giving training to our youth so that we might withstand any assault or attack that might come on us. That time has gone when a soldier could be given a sword and asked to go into the field either to die or to come out victorious. It is not the army alone that has to fight now if hostilities are declared and we have to fight against Pakistan. With such an extensive border we cannot expect that our army would be available everywhere to fight the Pakistani or any other enemy that might come against us. It is therefore essential that we should prepare our civilians for any emergency that might arise. When our neighbour has not concealed its intentions and is now roaring from the housetops that it certainly wants to settle all affairs by means of arms, and when responsible officers of Pakistan have announced that the Kashmir problem would be easy of solution when they have been armed by the U.S.A., we ought also to consider how we are going to fight any aggression. It is good to declare that we are not entering into a race for armaments with Pakistan; it is very good. It is very well to say we would not increase our defence budget; only an increase of six crores of rupees we have shown in

the recent budget. Then what is the other factor? How are we going to fight these Pakistanis if they are bent upon creating mischief? We won't get any arms from outside; that is all right. We won't increase our defence budget; that is also good. But what is the other method by which we can prepare ourselves? Are we doing anything in that direction? Whereas Pakistan has been preparing its civilians.

So little time?

Mr. Chairman: The point is that already the hon. Member has taken about six minutes and I would ask him to conclude within two or three minutes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I had just introduced the subject. The subject is so important, and even the Deputy-Speaker.

Mr. Chairman: Certainly he can have two minutes more.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I will do as you, Sir, order.

Mr. Chairman: The difficulty is that so many people are anxious to speak. I quite realise that the hon. Member has only introduced the subject and not so far advanced full arguments. At the same time I would request him to finish within two or three minutes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Then I would begin to conclude before beginning!

My request is that we should also consider calmly whether we are doing anything. Pakistan has been preparing its citizens and has been giving them training since the formation of that country. But we have not taken any steps to arm our citizens and to train them in the use of arms. On the contrary we have, rather, forfeited a good number of arms licences on the border. That is the pity. And the excuse given is that if those persons living on the border are freely armed with those weapons they will mis-use them, they will fight against one another. Sir, I should say that instead of devising any contraceptives or taking to family planning, it were better if a hundred or two hundred people of our country died, mutually fighting

against each other and using those arms. This would not affect our huge population of thirty-six crores so far as our nation is concerned. I would rather prefer it that they did use the arms freely and were disciplined and had that courage to use the arms. I would welcome it and prefer it to their not being able to fight. If there are hundred murders more it does not matter. But if Pakistan marches on our land and our youths are not disciplined and do not know the use of arms, then they would get panicky. Rather, they would obstruct the march of the regular army as well, and the army itself would not be able to march on. They would put obstructions and impediments in its way. And if we depend entirely on the army, their process also would be retarded in view of the obstructions and impediments that might be created.

Therefore, it is essential that we should train our youths in the use of arms, and particularly rifles. It has been argued that in the present advanced age rifles would not be of much use against the atom bomb. The use of aeroplanes and bombs might be a preliminary, to begin with, and they might create any amount of havoc and destruction. But ultimately the thing has to be decided by the soldiers and citizens by the use of these rifles alone. Because, if the possession of the country is to be taken, if it is to be occupied, then certainly it will come to the use of these arms; and human element must play a great role ultimately. Therefore this argument is not well founded when we are asked to believe that these rifles would not be of much avail at that time. I say their use is as essential today as it was in the old days when the decisions were taken by the use of these rifles.

Therefore, from every point of view, particularly taking into consideration the time that we are passing through and the emergency that we apprehend, it is necessary that our youths are armed and given suitable training in the use of rifles. Whether it is by this association or that association, it is necessary and essential. If we want to safeguard our country and main-

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

tain the freedom that we have won it is necessary that we should train our civilians. And this is the best proposal that has been put in the form of this resolution.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): Sir, this Resolution which I rise to support whole-heartedly is very opportune in view of the grave foreboding adumbrated in the Prime Minister's statement on the floor of the House on the 1st March with regard to the Pak-U.S.A. Military Alliance. The British who were ruling here for a long time, in order to keep their stranglehold on our people perpetually, took every step to emasculate us; and this Arms Act as well as other methods they used to keep us far away from anything concerning their military activity are well known. I am surprised to find that the same things should continue, even though we have got independence for the last six and a half or seven years. I am very much mortified to see that this is so. It is now definite that the horizon is very gloomy about the safety and security of our dear mother land.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): Not at all.

Dr. N. B. Khare: One need not be surprised if Pakistan attacks us. They want to conquer Assam to West Bengal and then Punjab up to Delhi, and if that is so, we cannot remain supine, imbecile and weak. We must militarise our nation. That should be our policy, and there is not the least doubt about it. In the British days it was very difficult to start rifle clubs in schools and colleges. But, I am proud to say that when I was the Congress Prime Minister of Central Provinces and Berar, I was the first man to permit freely the starting of rifle clubs in all the schools and colleges there. You are laughing but I am proud of that. The rifle shots began to be heard near Sevagram and that might be one of the reasons for my deposition.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: No, no. That is not correct.

Dr. N. B. Khare: You may have your own opinion and I have mine. I am not sorry for it. But, I must say that this Government must liberalize the Arms Act, if not totally abolish it, because I know what difficulty I myself had in renewing the licence for my pistol which I held from 1935 during British days. In 1948 or 1949 my pistol was seized. I tried to get it back from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Somehow or other they asked me to deposit it with the District Magistrate's nazarat. I did as I was directed although I held a licence for many many years before that. Ultimately I was upset and took courage to write to Shri Rajagopalachari who was the Home Minister then, and I must thank him, for, immediately after that letter, I got my licence.

So, I plead that now at least this Arms Act must be liberalised. It may be brought on the lines of England which country we are following everywhere. These rifle clubs must be started at all places. Unless we arm our people, strengthen them and make them able, bold and courageous, now are we going to fight the menace which is brewing in Pakistan? They are training every able-bodied young man and even woman and we are lying supine. They raid our villages. Every other day we read news about raids in papers and we simply protest. Why not we raid the village of Pakistan? What harm is there, I cannot understand? If that is not done, how are you going to meet the menace, by *Chankha* or *Jap Ram Nam*, or by saying:

ईश्वर अल्लाह तेरे नाम,
सब को सम्पत्ति दे भगवान ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : यह तो
पहले आप भी कहते थे ।

Dr. N. B. Khare: The Prime Minister has said that we must be firm, resolved, stiffen our backs and all that. As against this, is it not wrong to say that, to militarise us is not possible? I say that a blow must be met by blow and aggression by aggression. That is the principle even in our Vedas. Unless we follow that we are bound to suffer.

How are we going to meet Pakistani attack? If Pakistan attacks us shall we send books, volumes after volumes of the Prime Minister's *Discovery of India*, to be thrown on their soldiers and then sit quiet? I, therefore, strongly support this Resolution and hope the Government will not oppose it.

Shri Khardekar (Kolhapur *cum* Satara): I rise to oppose this Resolution. This Resolution is apparently innocent, but I think very mischievous in its consequences. I know that the Mover has very honest and very innocent intentions, but it is not intentions and motives that matter, it is the actual consequences that are inevitable and necessary, which must be considered.

I am all for the army and a very powerful and highly well equipped army. Keep the army well contented; let them eat well, drink even better. I do not mind that, because in a period of crisis it is the army that will have to be sacrificed first. Civilians must be civil and cultured. It is all right for the army and it is necessary that the army must be war-minded. But, the moment you get civilians war-minded and willing for war as we have seen from the speeches, well, war is not very far off. Nowadays, war is a matter for specialists. It is a matter for the professionals. It is no longer a luxury for the amateur to indulge in for the sake of personal glory. If we are to carry this Resolution to its logical conclusion and understand the intentions of the speakers from their speeches, we will have the spirit of militarism. To be prepared for war, to be anxious for war, and to be willing for war is to have war. And, war as you know is nothing but organised murder. It is the worst possible political disease. Are we not going to learn anything from the political history of the world? We know the way Germany went. We know the way Italy went. We know how they went to dogs. We know the path America has been mischievously following. Pakistan, foolishly and wrongly, is taking to the same path.

Now, in the Resolution there are certain words like, discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership. I would like you to open the books by Hitler and Mussolini and you will find identical words being used by them in their political philosophy. If this Resolution is to be carried too far, this country would be turned into nothing else but an R.S.S. camp, 'God forbid', because the philosophy of the R.S.S. is that of hatred communalism and war. Expressions such as "co-ordination with the Territorial Force", "training camp", and "importing of specialised weapons", well, their achievement will drive us to totalitarianism. I can understand a resolution like this moved by my friend Shri Deshpande. He would have been adequately militant, but I am surprised to find my friend Mr. Reddi who is normally very mild, is the means of such a destructive cause. This Resolution is the beginning of mass hysteria and war fever. We do want discipline, but we certainly do not want regimentation. Ours is the only country perhaps which stands for peace the gospel of peace has been fostered by Mahatma Gandhi, and it has been enhanced, strengthened and admirably advertised by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This gospel of peace is our national heritage. This has come from Ram to Ramkrishna and from Gautam to Gandhi. I do not know why some people are jealous of our national sanity. Therefore, I would request my hon. friend Mr. Reddi—unfortunately he is not here—to withdraw this Resolution.

Sardar Hukam Singh: He is here.

Shri Khardekar: But, without his upper part. You know it is a cannon of psychology that what you use has a very great bearing on what you are. I know one of our great friends was very kind and generous and extremely good to us on all occasions, but lately I have been finding him to be very harsh towards us—I refer to the Speaker, Sir. Now, mainly because he is the President of the Rifle Association, he is almost like a sergeant-major treating us as if we were raw recruits. Ruskin said, "Tell me what you like, and I will tell you what you are." If

[Shri Khardekar]

you are rifle-minded and war-minded, naturally you are a little offensive. That is an inevitable consequence. Discipline is necessary, and we must have it not only in young men but also in old men. But discipline can be introduced only by educational institutions. You know the proud saying of the Englishmen that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton and Harrow." During the last two wars, the English graduates from Oxford, Cambridge and the other English universities that proved to be the best pilots and the best officers. Why? Because they had not been trained in a semi-sort of manner, but they had their character, their moral fibre, moulded by their educational institutions.

Unfortunately, in India we have not got those institutions which can give good character you cannot give what you don't possess. So, the right way is to improve our educational institutions where our young men will have their character developed, and then they will have everything that can be sacrificed at a time of crisis. But half-trained and half-baked young men who would be more a nuisance at a time of crisis than anything else. So, let this nation spend as much as it likes on the Army. Let the Army be well-fed and in every way well-looked after. Let our civilians be full-blooded and well-developed persons, so that they will be persons who can give something not only to this country but they can leave a heritage to the whole world, because we are the only country in the world towards which people are looking for world peace.

श्री राधा रमण : सभापति जी, मैं जो प्रस्ताव अभी हमारे आनरेबिल मैम्बर रेड्डी साहब ने इस सदन के सामने रखा है, उस का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कुछ भाइयों ने यहाँ इस प्रस्ताव के समर्थन में या विरोध में ऐसी बातें कह दी हैं कि जो इस प्रस्ताव को रखते समय या समर्थन करते समय मेरे सामने नहीं हैं। उन्होंने कहा है

कि पाकिस्तान में चूँकि बड़ी तैयारी हो रही है, इसलिये हमें भी अपने मुल्क के अन्दर तैयारी करनी चाहिये और उस के लिये यह एक साधन, यानी राइफल ट्रेनिंग, अपने सामने रख सकते हैं। कुछ ने यह कहा है कि हमें इस बात की जरूरत है कि हम अपने नौजवानों को आरमी के लिये तैयार करें, अपने लोगों को फौज के लिये तैयार करें, और इस के लिये हमें उन को राइफल ट्रेनिंग देनी चाहिये। मेरा नजरिया या नक्ते निगाह इस से बिल्कुल अलग है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि हमारे देश की जो नीति है, उस नीति के आधार पर हमें पाकिस्तान में जो हों रहा है वह नहीं करना है, न हमें इस चीज को उठाना है कि अगर आज हमारे पड़ोस में बार हिस्टीरिया है तो हम अपने मुल्क में भी उस हिस्टीरिया को लायें। हमारे सामने तो एक सीधा सादा सवाल है और वह यह कि हमें अपने नौजवानों को ऐसी तरफ ले जाना चाहिये कि जिस से खेल कूद के जरिये ही उन का शारीरिक व्यायाम हो जाय और इस तरह की ट्रेनिंग उन को दी जाय कि जिस से उन के अन्दर डिसिप्लिन और अनुशासन में रहने का ढंग आ जाय। मैं कभी माक्सिमन नहीं रहा, न मैंने कभी राइफल चलाई है और न समझता हूँ कि कभी इस को चलाने की मुझे जरूरत पड़ेगी।

[SARDAR HUKAM SINGH in the Chair]

जो बात हमें महात्माजी ने सिखाई है, मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर उस के अनुसार नान बायलैन्स आफ दी स्ट्रांग हमारे अन्दर मौजूद है तो वह स्पिरिट वह काम कर सकती है जो राइफल नहीं कर सकती। आज दुनिया में जब एटम बम और हाइड्रोजन बम्ब की बातें हो रही हैं, तो वहाँ यह कहना कि आधुनिक लड़ाई में यह राइफल काम आवेगी, यह बिल्कुल शल्लत बात है। हमें यह चाहिये कि हमारे नौजवान खाली बथत में ऐसी

चीजें सीखें कि जिस से उन को निशानेबाजी आये, जिस से उन के अन्दर डिसिप्लिन पैदा हो, अनुशासन का तरीका वह सीखें और उन के अन्दर एक क्रिस्म की हिम्मत पैदा हो और डर और भय उन के अन्दर से निकल जाय, उन को डर और भय से नजात पाने का मौका मिले। यह चीजें हम चाहते हैं। मैंने अपने तजुबों से यह देखा है कि जिन भाइयों या बहनों को राइफल ट्रेनिंग की शिक्षा दी गई उन के अन्दर यह चीजें आईं।

मैं आप को यह बताने में ज़रा भी नहीं हिचकिचाता कि दिल्ली में जब राइफल ट्रेनिंग का काम शुरू किया तो क्या हालत थी। आप को यह सुन कर ताज्जुब होगा कि जब यह काम शुरू हुआ तो यहाँ २५ हजार लाइसेंस होल्डर्स थे। मैंने इस बात का पता लगाने की कोशिश की कि इन में से कितनों को राइफल पकड़ना आता है, तो मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ कि उन में से लगभग दस या बारह हजार ऐसे आदमी थे जिन को राइफल पकड़ना आता था और उन में से भी बहुत से चलाना नहीं जानते थे। दस बारह हजार आदमी ऐसे थे जिन के पास राइफलों केवल रखी थीं। वह महीने या दो महीने में उन को निकाल कर उन पर पालिश कर के और ग्रीस लगा कर वापस रख देते थे और उन के घर में वह राइफलों एक तरह की नुमायशी चीज की तरह रखी हुई थी। हमारे मुल्क के अन्दर हम क्रिकेट खेलते हैं, फुटबाल खेलते हैं और तीर कमान चलाने का भी बहुत पुराने वक्त से तरीका चला आता है। उस से फायदा यह होता है कि हम अपने नौजवानों को निडर और अनुशासन में अच्छी तरह रहने का ढंग सिखा देते हैं, वह अनुशासन को अपने जीवन का अंग बना सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि हम को अपने मुल्क में आज इसी तरह के काम सिखाने की ज़रूरत है। मैं आप को

बताऊँ कि जब से हम ने दिल्ली में राइफल ट्रेनिंग देने का काम शुरू किया है तब से उन २५ हजार नौजवानों में से कई सौ नौजवान ऐसे निकल आये हैं कि जिन्होंने अपनी राइफलों को निकाला है और उन को जंग लगने से बचाया है और उन्होंने निशानेबाजी भी सीखी है। यह कहना ठीक न होगा कि ऐसा करने से हमारे देश में ऐसे नौजवान पैदा हो गये हैं, जैसे खड्केर भाई ने कहा, कि वह लड़ाई के लिये तैयार हो रहे हैं या राइफल चलाना सीख गये हैं इसलिये वह किसी को मारेंगे। लेकिन उन में यह एहसास पैदा हो गया कि हमारे पास एक चीज है, जिस का इस्तेमाल हम ने सीखा और जिस से मुल्क को फायदा पहुँचा। लेकिन यह मुल्क के फायदे की बात इस में लाना गौण चीज है। निशानेबाजी एक ऐसी चीज है कि जो मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस वक्त आप को दूसरा काम करने को न हो या जिस को आप अपने दूसरे काम को करते हुए साथ साथ करें तो आप अपने देश के लिये बहुत कुछ कर सकते हैं, इस से आप अपने अन्दर ऐसे गुण पैदा कर सकते हैं, जैसे कि इस रिजोल्यूशन के अन्दर बतलाई गई हैं।

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री (जिला आजम-गढ़-पूर्व व जिला बलिया-पश्चिम) : निर्लक्ष्य जिशाना।

श्री राधा रमण : लक्ष्य को कायम करना या लक्ष्य को हासिल करना भी मार्क्समैनशिप या राइफल ट्रेनिंग से बहुत अच्छी तरह सीखा जा सकता है। जीवन भी एक लक्ष्य है कि जिस के अन्दर पूरी तरह ठीक उतरना हर एक इन्सान के लिये बहुत ज़रूरी है। इसलिये मैं तो यही कहूँगा कि राइफल ट्रेनिंग देनी चाहिये। इस रिजोल्यूशन का मंशा भी यही है, यही इस के अन्दर मुख्य बात है कि राइफल ट्रेनिंग की शिक्षा दी जाय। इस में मैं मानता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट से सहायता मिलती

[श्री राधा रमण]

हैं, डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से भी सहायता दी जाती है और एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से भी सहायता मिलती है।

इस रिजोल्यूशन का मकसद यही है कि हम अपने नौजवानों का ध्यान इस ओर खींचें जिन को अपने सिर पर भविष्य में बड़े बड़े उत्तरदायित्व लेने हैं। उन नौजवानों को इस काम में रुचि दिलाई जाय और उन को ऐसे कामों में लगाया जाय जिस से कि उन की हिम्मत बढ़े और वह देश के लिये ज्यादा फायदेमन्द साबित हो सकें। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि जो कानून इस वक़्त तक बना हुआ है उस को लिबरलाइज़ करने की ज़रूरत है। गवर्नमेंट को इस तरफ़ तवज्जह देनी चाहिये कि वह नौजवानों की रुचि इस तरफ़ पंदा करे जिस से कि वह मुल्क के लिये फायदेमन्द साबित हो सकें। अगर इस तरह से उन को शिक्षा दी जायेगी तो कल को वह बहुत काम कर सकते हैं। अगर फौज में भरती करने के लिये ज़रूरत हो तो जो यह नौजवान राइफल ट्रेनिंग सीखे हुए होंगे वह बहुत काफ़ी तादाद में मिल सकेंगे और वह शानदार साबित होंगे।

इसलिये मैं इस रिजोल्यूशन की पुरजोर ताईद करता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट इस तरफ़ ध्यान देगी और इस काम के लिये पूरी सुविधायें देगी। कानून के लिबरलाइज़ेशन द्वारा इस तरह के निशाने-बाजी की तरक्की होगी, और आरगनाइज़ेशन को काफ़ी इमदाद मिलेगी।

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I am at a loss to decide whether to support the Resolution or not to support it.....

Shri K. K. Basu: To'ss and decide.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member has to decide. I can call another hon. Member.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Because the few speeches that I have now heard have created an impression in me that their mind is working in the war path. The spirit of the Resolution is not to take the nation in the path of militarism, in the path of war. The implication of the Resolution seems to me to be to bring about more discipline, more orderliness and more team-spirit amongst the youth. If this is the main import of the Resolution, I have to support the Resolution. But, we cannot make this as the ground to say that we should follow the policy of militarism. By making the youth more disciplined, more valourous, more self-confident and more physically fit, we are not in any way endorsing that we should follow a policy of militarism in our affairs. There is a saying in our part; if wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; if character is lost, everything is lost:

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): If time is lost?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It is very important that we should remember this. We must remember that the human factor is the most important thing. We have seen what happened in Finland. Finland was a comparatively very small country when compared to Russia. Russia's military strength could not do anything against Finland till Germany came to the aid of Russia. In Finland, we see the exhibition of the moral force in its true colours. Again, it is the failure of the human element in France that made France prostrate before Germany. So if there is a failure of the human factor, we see a crisis, subjugation, chaos and such other evils. The most important thing at present in India is to arm ourselves morally.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (Shahabad South): And follow Buchman.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Not in the sense of Moral Rearmament. There should be a rearmament of morality; (interruption) not in the sense that the international organisation is doing.

but in the Gandhian way. If the will and the determination of the people is at the lowest ebb, we cannot be a great nation. In my opinion the path of militarism is a path of war. People who talk of militarising a nation by various methods are either ignoramuses or congenital idiots. I feel this is a very important matter and at present when we are having a lot of trouble around us on our borders, we must exercise caution, restraint, tolerance and should not allow ourselves to become impetuous and we should not lose our balance of mind.

The greatness of our nation lies in our character, not in our military equipment, not in our weapons, not in our physical exercises, not in the exhibition of all these things. Our greatness lies in our self-confidence, determination and will. The proper emphasis should be on the building of character. If the use of weapons and the use of exercises could help in the building up of character, it may be permissible to a certain extent. But, this should not be carried too far, because it is dangerous. When once a man takes to weapons, it is inevitable and natural that he likes to use them. Suppose a child has certain toys; the very presence of the toys makes the child use them. It naturally plays with the toys. In the same way, if weapons are given freely, if there is more relaxation in the use of arms and armaments, it is quite likely that we may like to play with them. It is a very dangerous thing. We have seen what is happening in Egypt and what is happening in other countries in the Middle East. To allow free use of weapons is not only dangerous inside India; it will be dangerous also so far as our external relationship with other countries is concerned. We must be very cautious. We should not be carried away by slogans, catch words, and emotions. We must restrain ourselves; we must concentrate our attention in building up our nation on the basis of character. Today we are suffering from lack of character. There is a crisis on the plane of morality. It is the bounden duty of every organisation, every man and woman in India

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to arm ourselves properly in morality. There is a crisis in our morality.

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): How?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: This unprecedented crisis in our morality should be averted and reversed by education and through other methods, not by giving military weapons or weapons of war to the youth. After all, we know the mind of the youth works in such a fantastic fashion nowadays, because.....

Dr. Jaisoorya (Medak): How old are you?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am a youth myself and I know my feelings. I can appreciate the dangerous consequences which result in chaos because of the uncontrolled emotions which are working in the minds of the youth. So, I say that this encouragement to give weapons may end badly for us. Finally I say this: I do not oppose the Resolution; nor do I support it. I leave the matter as it is. I leave the matter to the good sense of the House. Let them decide.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I have put in an amendment to the Resolution and I think the hon. Mover of the Resolution will accept it. The Resolution as I have drafted will have no difficulty in finding favour with the Government. The Government is for it. I may refer the hon. Minister to page 119 of the summary of recommendations of the Planning Commission, in which it is said:

"The National Association for physical education and recreation should be strengthened. It should organise branches in all States."

Again it says that "facilities in respect of equipment and play grounds should be made available for the use of every community Centre and rural and youth organisations". This Youth Organisation is for the good of the youth. You know the youth of today are the makers of tomorrow. They will take the reins of Government and so far as the youth will be men of character, the Government of the future will to that extent be good and excellent. When the Government

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

themselves have proposed in the Five Year Plan that Youth organisations should be organised and a sum of one crore has been provided, where is the difficulty in accepting such a Resolution? Some friends who were not in the Congress fold say that when these youths will take to rifles, they will go far from non-violence, they precept preached by Mahatma Gandhi. Reference has been made to the National Rifle Association whose President is no less a person than the hon. Speaker. How can he be there? He was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, and he is now the organiser, nay, the President of the National Rifle Association. Here I may say one thing. Though it is personal, I must reveal it to the House.

You know the movement that went on in Midnapore District in 1942. The then Government harassed the people to the utmost and the local people there established a national Government. You will be astonished to hear that that national Government did away with the lives of 80 persons. The then British Government could not prove it, in courts but when Mahatma Gandhi came out from jail and went to Midnapore, he stayed at Mahishadal. The people there went to him and accused the organisation. I was asked to give an explanation as to why the lives of so many persons were done away with. I told Mahatmaji: "We are at your feet. Please hear us and give the punishment you desire. We are ready to take it." The thing was the Government was burning houses even after the cyclone, and in one case in broad day light the police and the military surrounded five villages, harassed and arrested all the male persons and allowed the sepoys to do what they like in those villages. You will be astonished to hear that in broad day light 40 females were raped. Under those circumstances, the organisation and the people there could not keep non-violence. The lives of those people who then helped the British Government were done away with. I said this openly

to Mahatmaji. He said: "Though I do not approve of your act, yet I feel proud that the workers of Midnapore were not cowards. They did what I do not want, but they were not cowards. They wanted to destroy those persons not in my way but in another way, and they were not cowards."

Shri K. K. Basu: Advise your Government to accept that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: These were the words that came out from the mouth of Mahatma Gandhi.

So, we should not be afraid of the name of the rifle. We must train youths who will have the rifle in their hands but will not use it. We want to defend ourselves. We are not going to commit aggression on others. In that respect the youth organisation is necessary, and I place the Resolution before the House for the acceptance of the Government, amended as under:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

Dr. Katju: We have heard many fine speeches. I have felt very much heartened by listening to them. I think there can be no doubt whatsoever that the spirit underlining the Resolution is a fine spirit and the object that the movers have in view is a proper object.

I do not like that this Resolution should be connected in any way with recent developments. That is not the proper approach. If, God forbid, anything happens, then we will have to approach the dangers ahead or the dangers we may have to confront on another and wider scale, and we will make all suitable preparations.

So far as this matter is concerned, the Government of India have themselves shared the anxiety of encouraging these rifle clubs, and the House will be interested to hear what the

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Government has done already in this field. They may be interested also to compare what I am going to say now with what the movers of the Resolution have mentioned specifically in the four clauses of this Resolution.

In 1951 the Government of India, in pursuance of the policy of establishing and encouraging rifle clubs, addressed the State Governments and requested them to render assistance to rifle clubs in every possible manner—that was in January—and they suggested particularly three things: providing storage facilities they require for arms and ammunitions in police armouries, making available the services of trained police personnel to act as instructors, and financial subvention for the purchase of arms and ammunition. I suggest respectfully that this is practically going the full length of what the movers of the Resolution have in view.

Next year, that is in 1952, Government decided to extend to rifle clubs the facility of direct import of arms and ammunition required by them. This was done so that these rifle clubs may be able to buy their requirements without the intervention of an intermediate dealer and thus secure arms and ammunition at reasonable prices. It was suggested then that on the arms and ammunition so imported by rifle clubs customs duty might be waived. The question of exemption from payment of licence fees was also raised. These questions were examined and the conclusion we arrived at in 1952 was that it would not be practicable, nor would it be good policy, to make such direct concessions, but State Governments were advised that whenever they possibly could, financial assistance might be given to the associations or rifle clubs in many ways. And one way suggested was the reimbursement of the licence fees.

A little later, we received another proposal from the National Rifle Association to the effect that it might be permitted to obtain supplies of ammunition from ordnance depots at con-

cession rates, and this request has been acceded to.

Let me now repeat where the matter stands. We are prepared to give them free instructors. We are prepared to provide storage facilities for them. Financial subventions can be given and are being given. Arms can be imported directly from outside, without the intervention of any intermediaries. The State Governments have been advised to give as much financial assistance as may be possible, including the reimbursement of the licence fee for arms. Further, the ammunition can be obtained from the ordnance factories in India at concession rates. I suggest that all this is a fairly strong catalogue of encouragement, and no particular relaxation is called for in these. In this context, so far as the Home Ministry is concerned, we are always willing to render all possible assistance and encouragement in every possible way to the National Rifle Association and to the rifle clubs that approach us for assistance in any way.

In the Resolution, there is another clause—I am referring to clause (b)—which says:

“co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year”.

This probably has been included in the Resolution on a misapprehension or rather on not a full appreciation of the existing practices. The Auxiliary Territorial Force camps have been set up in different parts of the country, and there are altogether about 36 camps. They are mostly in rural areas, and I find that out of 36, only 3 were established nearabout urban areas. In these camps, all sorts of training is given in rifles and arms, but they are of a restricted character, and I submit that the training given in these camps cannot be co-ordinated

[Dr. Katju]

profitably or usefully with the training given in rifle clubs. Therefore, this will not be possible. But wherever these camps may be established, there would be no difficulty placed in the way of any member or members of rifle clubs going and asking for permission to take part in the training which may be imparted there.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

I respectfully submit that really in this particular matter, there is no difference between the policy which the Government of India have been following up till now, and the policy which this Resolution advocates. As a matter of fact, the Government of India have been fully alive to the usefulness of rifle training. Something was said about the policy of non-violence. It has got really nothing to do with this, and I do not think that if Mahatmaji had been alive today and had been here, to assist us, he would have taken any objection to the policy which we are pursuing. I think it is desirable that every young man should know how to handle a rifle. I also agree that these rifle clubs have served a very useful purpose. I have been to several of them myself, when I was in Bengal, and it was really a delight to see the outstanding young men who used to acquire this training. Not only young men were there, but I used to see also some young women in every rifle club, and they were very fine, what shall I say, marksmen or markswomen.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: As you like You are the master of the situation.

Dr. Katju: It seemed to come to them very handy.

Something was said about discipline. I think it is a well-recognised fact that these rifle clubs do inculcate a sense of discipline in our youth. We have had disturbances of various kinds in various cities including...

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: Lucknow.

Dr. Katju:...the city of Calcutta, and let us say, Lucknow, with which I am familiar. But I am pretty confident that if a census were taken, you would have found that very few, if at all any, members of a rifle club had taken part in these disturbances. This is all mob psychology, which prevails in Calcutta or in Lucknow. Only the mob has to do with it. But the moment you go there and have a National Cadet Corps or a rifle club, the very fact that a young man is able to handle a rifle makes him a little bit of an expert in self-restraint and self-control, so that he does not indulge in all these irregular practices which we sometimes read in the newspapers.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Now, I might have asked the House after hearing my statement to withdraw the Resolution as well as the various amendments to it, because the Government of India are already carrying out the policy which is advocated by the Resolution. But it might be useful, and I have no objection in accepting the amendment of my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta, instead of the big Resolution that has been drafted, which goes into details. A general indication of the policy which appeals to the House would be more useful for us as a guidance, viz. the one advocated in the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta, which reads:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

This alternative Resolution gives us a general policy which the House can approve. Let me point out once again that we shall do everything to further this policy in every way and at all times.

I would beg of the House once again not to connect this Resolution or this discussion with any warlike preparations of any kind or form, which might mislead others, for that is not the object. I should like this rifle training and these rifle clubs, even if there were perfect peace and contentment in the country, and we were on the friendliest terms with everybody in the world at large. Even then, the establishment of these rifle clubs is necessary for the proper building up of the youth of India.

I would not take the time of the House any further. I would accept the amendment moved by my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta, with the addition that he has made to the same.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I have got only a few words to say. I am very glad that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given a very generous approach to the entire problem, and that he is anxious to accept the more comprehensive amendment that has been given notice of by Shri S. C. Samanta. I would therefore not press my Resolution.

But I may say that I was amused to hear our esteemed friends Shri Khardekar and Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy; the one advocated militarisation, while the other advocated sterilisation.

An Hon. Member: Moralisation.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: With these few words, I beg to withdraw my Resolution, in view of the assurance that the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta is to be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must keep the Resolution.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: But the amendment is going to be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may say that he is accepting the amendment.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I have already suggested that I am accepting the amendment, and I am not going to press my Resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta to the vote of the House. If that is accepted, the original Resolution will go automatically.* The question is:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

The motion was adopted.

6 P.M.

RESOLUTION RE WITHDRAWAL OF CADETS FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed to discuss the Resolution of Sardar Hukam Singh. The time-limit is one hour. It will finish at 7. How long does the hon. Member propose to take?

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala—Bhatinda): Half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he himself takes half an hour, then what about the Government?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): What about others?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I will be very brief.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Fifteen minutes. He may take as long as he wants to take. But we have fixed one hour.

An Hon. Member: Fifteen minutes will do.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): I would suggest that the hon. Mover may take 15 minutes, then 15 minutes for the Minister and the rest for others.

*Other amendments were deemed to have been negatived.