

(iii) They use British ranks in the same way as the University Training Corps.

(iv) They receive the same conveyance allowance as the University Training Corps.

(c) No. They are trained on the same lines as the University Training Corps.

#### THE PARSİ PIONEERS.

850. \***Mr. N. M. Dumasia:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that Colonel Lavie represented at the time of formation of the Parsi Pioneers that the battalion enjoyed the same rights and privileges as those enjoyed by British territorial regiments?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether military authorities had authorised Colonel Lavie to make such representation as aforesaid?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** The Government of India have no information and are making inquiries the results of which I will communicate to the Honourable Member.

#### CONVERSION OF THE PARSİ PIONEERS INTO A TERRITORIAL BATTALION.

851. \***Mr. N. M. Dumasia:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the military authorities have now decided to convert the Parsi Pioneers into an ordinary territorial battalion?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that such a decision has caused great discontent and irritation in the Parsi community?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that the Parsi Pioneers have declined to accept that decision on the ground that it is a breach of promise made to them?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) The conditions on which the 11th Battalion, 2nd Bombay Pioneers, was formed are given in the statement on the table. These terms were, I may mention, accepted by 8 leading Parsi gentlemen of Bombay, and Government see no reason why these terms should be altered.

The unit was constituted under the Indian Territorial Force Act and, therefore, already forms one of the units of the Indian Territorial Force.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### *Statement showing terms and conditions on which the 11th Battalion, 2nd Bombay Pioneers, was formed.*

1. That a technical unit of the Indian Territorial Force be formed in Bombay from the Parsi community exclusively and recruited under the conditions laid down for the Indian Territorial Force generally.
2. That the rules should provide for the continuous training of this unit on lines approximating to those laid down for the University Training Corps.
3. That as such training would differ in character from that prescribed for the infantry branch of the Indian Territorial Force the Parsi unit should belong to another branch.
4. That the unit should be designated the Bombay Pioneer Battalion.
5. That the unit should be allowed the same choice as regards uniform as the University Training Corps (British).
6. That when called out or embodied for training or service it should be given a special scale of rations, the British service scale being suitable for this purpose.