

(c) If the answers of parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) I lay a Statement on the Table of the House giving the required information (See Appendix C II. Annexure No. 16).

Killing and Torture of Political Workers in West Bengal

*250. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held any discussions with the Chief Minister of West Bengal on the 9th July, 1977 regarding the nature of action to be taken on the reported cases of killing and torture of political workers by the police in West Bengal during the period of emergency;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Bandimukt Ganadabi Prastuti Committee of Calcutta in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) The representation was forwarded to the Government of West Bengal for appropriate action.

Recruitment of Sales Officers and Salesmen by M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., Calcutta

*251. SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI PHANINDRA NATH HANSDA:

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh recruitment of staff has taken place in M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., Calcutta, since its take-over by Government, if so, what is the number of persons recruited;

(b) whether it is a fact that the company has recently advertised for recruitment of Sales Officer and Salesmen;

(c) whether the Authorised Controller of the company has recently informed Government that due to rationalisation of labour the staff of the sole selling agents of the said company cannot be taken in;

(d) whether the management of the company is trying to recruit people from outside depriving employment opportunity to the employees of the sole selling agents of the said company; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Seven persons have been freshly recruited.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The erstwhile Sole Selling agent of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., namely 'Allied Distributors' was a separate firm and therefore, the scheme of reconstruction of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., the

management whereof has been taken over by the Government, does not permit for absorption of the staff and workers of the said Sole Selling Agents.

(e) Does not arise.

Guidelines for Exhibition of Portraits of Prominent Persons in Government Offices

*252. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

SHRI YAGENDRA MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines or instructions have been issued by Government in regard to exhibiting portraits of prominent persons in Government Offices; and

(b) if not, what action Government propose to take to ensure a uniform policy in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Government is of the view that it is not necessary to issue any instructions and the matter may best be left to the State Governments or the Heads of Departments to decide whether they should at all exhibit any portraits in the office rooms and if so, of which particular leader, so that no controversy arises out of the display of any portrait.

Atrocities on Harijans and persons belonging to the weaker sections of Society in Punjab

*253. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently received any Communication from the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee conveying instances of excesses and atrocities perpetrated on the Harijans and others belonging to the weaker sections of society in that State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A copy of the letter dated 10/11-7-77 which the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee has addressed to the Chief Minister, Punjab in the matter has been received on the 21st July, 1977. The letter contains among other things certain complaints received in the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee office regarding alleged harassment of Harijans and other weaker sections of society in the State. The complaints include alleged victimisation of harijans in district Gurdaspur, attack on the house of Shri Dayal Singh, a Harijan worker of Roopnagar, his uncle and wife and alleged beating up of a harijan in village Pharwahi in district Sangrur. The communication, however, has not mentioned the dates and other details of the alleged incidents.