

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstayed Question No. 754 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1973 and state:

(a) whether the memoranda regarding land ceilings and Tenancy rules submitted by the ex-servicemen and like public men of the merged areas of Himachal Pradesh earlier and in May, 1973, have since been examined by Government:

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken:

(c) if not, the reasons therefor:

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of Himachal Pradesh is pressing the Central Government to delay in taking a decision thereon: and

(e) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) The various points raised in the Memoranda in so far as they related to the Himachal Pradesh \* Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1972 have been examined and it has not been found possible to accept them. The points relating to the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and land Reforms Bill, 1972 are still under consideration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Assistant Grade Examination

SS& SHRI E. M. SANGMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give three chances to candidates appearing in the Assistant Grade Examination conducted by U.P.S.C. as has been done in the case of I.A.S. and other Central Services Examinations: and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and ibi He decision to allow three chances in the I.A.S., etc. Examination to be held this year is a purely transitional measure. The final position will be known next year when the question of any changes required in the examination for other Services including that for the Assistant's Grade will be examined.

#### International Friendship Societies in Delhi

IK). SHRI G. R. PATH:-

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised ministers and other senior officials not to associate themselves with the "International Friendship Societies";

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such Friendship Societies existing in Delhi; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the *modus operandi* of these Societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) It has been suggested to the Ministers that they should not become identified with such societies by becoming patrons, members, etc. However, the extent to which they may otherwise participate in the functions organised by such societies has been left to their discretion. Similarly, Government servants have been advised not to accept any office in or membership of any such society. Nor should they participate in their activities. They may, however, after obtaining prior permission, speak before such societies on non-controversial matters. These suggestions have been made in the public interest. According to the information available, 25 such societies exist in Delhi. No inquiry has been conducted into their *modus operandi*.

†Transferred from the 25th July, 1973.