

year due to (a) floods, (b) students' agitations (c) labour strikes; and (d) communal riots?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : The information is being collected.

CHIEF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

601. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of Chief Ministers of States took place in September, 1969;

(b) if so, the main subjects taken up for discussion at the said conference; and

(c) the steps so far taken to implement the recommendations made at the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The communal situation in the country was discussed by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister with the Chief Ministers of some States who were present in Delhi on September 26, 1969.

(b) and (c) The administrative and other arrangements and measures to deal with communal activities in order to (i) prevent build up of communal illwill or tension (ii) deal firmly with early manifestations of tension or trouble and (iii) promote communal harmony, were reviewed.

STUDENTS' PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS

602. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that students, are increasingly becoming political minded and are participating in agitations, movements, etc;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of students are often prosecuted and have to undergo imprisonment for taking part in the political struggles, movements, etc;

(c) if so, whether this will in any way affect their prospects for entering into Government service and future career and if so to what extent; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to discourage the student community from participating in political agitations, etc. in future?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V.K. R.V. RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is true that students have been occasionally prosecuted and punished for violating the law of the land. It is presumed that they do so with full knowledge of the consequences of such action, including their prospects of entering into Government service or future career.

(d) Government cannot do anything to discourage the student community from participating in political life. It is, for the political parties themselves to take suitable steps in the matter.

INDISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS

C03. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware the growing indiscipline among students in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this has badly affected the standard of education in the educational institutions; and

(c) if so, what is Government's assessment of the situation and what steps are being taken to check growing indiscipline among students ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V.K. R.V. RAO) : (a) and (b) It is true that unrest among students has been increasing in recent years and that it does make a contribution to a deterioration in the standards of education.

(cf) To the extent resources permit efforts are being made to mitigate some of the factors that contribute to student unrest. Among these, mention might be made of the establishment of joint committees of teachers and students to discuss problems of common interest, greater involvement of students in university life, the organisation of programme of national service, improving amenities and facilities in institutions of higher education, striving to create more employment opportunities, etc. It must be admitted, however, that it is a major attack on this complex problem which is due to a variety of cultural