

(a) whether the local Self Government institutions in NEFA have started functioning; and

(b) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the Government when the Report of the Ering Committee on local self-government will be implemented and from what date, local self-government will start functioning? I would also like to know why there is delay in implementation.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Madam, as the hon. House knows, this is a very sensitive and strategic area and we had to consider the various pros and cons before a final decision could be taken. Also as the House knows, a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Fring, who is now Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and they went into the question thoroughly and made certain recommendations. On the basis of those recommendations we drafted the regulation for introduction of Panchayati Raj or local self-government there. After due consideration and processing, we have now fixed the date as 2nd October, Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, for the introduction of Panchayati Raj in this area. And I think after the introduction of Panchayati Raj, many reforms that we wish to introduce in this area would be expedited.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the Government whether they have received any representations or complaints that the delay is because of the Adviser who is posted there and he is not functioning well and efficiently? If so, what steps are the Government going to take to either replace him or make some other arrangements so that things can function well?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The delay has been due to the various reasons that I have explained earlier in my answer. As far as the Adviser of NEFA is concerned, some complaints have been received about him. These complaints are not about his

integrity and all those things, but about the general working in NEFA. We are considering what action we should take about this matter.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know why the people of NEFA are in a way being discriminated against, because local self government is the rule in the rest of the country? In view of the fact that they are equal citizens of India, why doesn't the Government take early steps to set up local self-government in that area?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Madam, there is no discrimination. So far in this Agency area there was no semblance of any local self-government. So when local self-government is being introduced, it is not an example of discrimination but an example of advance. And we want to advance in such a way that there is no dislocation in the strategic border area and things go on smoothly.

PRIVAT MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN DELHI

*325. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the administrative control of all the Delhi Municipal Corporation aided private Middle Schools is being transferred from the Municipal Corporation to the Delhi Administration from the academic year 1969-70 and that as a result thereof, the grants-in aid for the first quarter of the current financial year has not so far been released to the Managements of those schools even though claims therefor were preferred by them to the Corporation in time; and

(b) what steps are being taken or Government propose to take for the release of the grant-in-aid to the Managements with a view to avoiding hardships to the employees of those institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) The proposed transfer has not affected the release of grant-in-aid for the first quarter of the current financial year to the Managements of Aided private Middle Schools. It is being released as usual.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI G. R. PATIL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government is aware that 95 per cent of the total expenditure on salaries and allowances of the staff employed in the aided private middle schools in Delhi is given by the Delhi Municipal Corporation in advance quarterly as grant-in-aid to the managements of these aided schools? Secondly, may I know whether because of the non-release of the grant for the first quarter of the current financial year so far, the managements have not been able to disburse the salaries to the staff for the last one or two months? Also I would like to know when actually the grant is going to be released.

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Madam, we have made enquiries from the Delhi Municipal Corporation and they have assured us that the grant is being released to-day or in the course of the next few days.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: As at present the various problems connected with private schools in Delhi are regulated and controlled through administrative orders or rules made by the Delhi Administration. So, with a view to regulating the various problems connected with the private schools, like admissions, grants, etc., a comprehensive legislation titled "Delhi Secondary Education Bill" was placed before Parliament. May I know why no progress has been made in getting it passed to see that the private schools in Delhi are governed under a comprehensive Act?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: Madam, the matter has been taken up with the Chief Executive Councillor.

*326. [Transferred to the 12th May, 1969.]

DISPLAY OF CAR PLATES

*327. **SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN):** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether he is aware that cars and motor vehicles display numerical plates other than the international one and if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH): Yes Madam. The enforcement of the law rests with the State Governments. There have been some requests for amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to permit a departure from the existing requirements in this regard. The issue is under consideration in consultation with State Governments.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Madam, may I draw the attention of the honourable Minister to the fact that it has become a common practice to have Hindi numerals? Recently in Tamil Nadu also some people have started using Tamil numerals on private car plates. They are seen in Trichi and other places. This practice is against the international law itself and whenever an accident takes place it is not possible either for the policeman or for the public to know what exactly the number is of the car involved in the accident. In this connection, I would like to ask the Minister as to what immediate steps the Government is going to take to declare that if anybody wants to display the numerals in any other language he can do so but at the same time the international numerals also should be displayed on the car plates.

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Regarding the numerals I do not think there is any difference. Practically all the State Governments agreed that according to Article 343 of the Constitution the international numerals should be displayed.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Madam, is the Government aware that what are known as international numerals are really Indian numerals? These numerals, this conception of decimal, zero, the Arabs received from us and therefore, the Arabs call them "Hindsa", that is, borrowed from India. Since the West got them from the Arabs, the Western people called them Arabic numerals. Now they are known as international numerals. But they are Indian numerals . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: We are getting them back from the West.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: We had them all along. Therefore, they are Indian numerals. Could the Government take this view and propagate this in this country so that