

to say without any hesitation whatsoever that the Congress Government has got the highest respect for Kazi Nazrul Islam and his works. And I believe he is drawing pension from the Government of India. We are anxious to see that his poems get as much publicity and accessibility to all people as possible.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:** May I know whether there has been a proposal for publishing works of all such national poets from their language into the other regional languages so that ...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question time over. I am really very sorry I was anxious to have the next question. But I shall see how best it can come.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### PURI SHANKARACHARYA'S VIEWS ON UNTOUCHABILITY AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

\*69. **SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPA-  
YEN:**

**DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI  
TALWAR:**

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA:**

**SARDAR RAM SINGH:**

**SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA  
REDDY:**

Will the Minister of HOME AF-  
FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in the press on the 29th and 31st March, 1969 giving the views of the Shankaracharya of Puri in which he has stated that no law could prevent Hindus from practising untouchability and that Jana Gana Mana could not be the National Anthem and if so, the reaction of Government to these statements; and

(b) the action, if any taken in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AF-  
FAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):** (a)  
Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government are advised that the statement of the Shankaracharya of Puri is actionable under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. The Bihar Government were accordingly advised to examine the authentic text of the statement made by Shankaracharya with a view to launching a prosecution under the law. It is learnt from the State Government that the police are instituting a case under Section 7(1)(c) of the Untouchability (Offences) Act 1955 and Section 153A IPC and are taking up investigation immediately.

Government also deplore his act of disrespect to the National Anthem.

\*70. [Transferred to the 9th May, 1969].

##### ABOLITION OF PRIVY PURSE

\*71. **SHRI RIZAQ RAM:**

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:**

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA:**

Will the Minister of HOME AF-  
FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the measures for abolition of privy purses and privileges of the former princes; and

(b) if so, when and how do they propose to implement the same?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AF-  
FAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):** (a)  
and (b) No final decision has been taken yet on the measures necessary for the implementation of the decision of Government to abolish privy purses and privileges of the Rulers.