

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission relating to the setting up of statutory and sector corporations, along with the other recommendations of the Commission, are under examination by Government.

† CHILDREN SOCIALIST CHARTER

307-B. SHRI M. M. DHARIA:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to introduce Children Socialist Charter; and

(b) if so, what are its main features?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

12 Noon

CHAIRMAN'S RULING RE. REFERENCE MADE BY SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA TO A NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN THE 'STATESMAN'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday Shri Bhupesh Gupta referred to a news-item appearing in the "Statesman" of the same date of the effect that "a formula for Assam's reorganisation, approved by the Internal Affairs Committee of the Cabinet, envisages the status of a sub-federation for the hill districts". Shri Bhupesh Gupta pointed out that while a few days earlier the Home Minister had stated that the matter was under considera-

tion, it was surprising that a report of this nature should have appeared in an important newspaper. He further pointed out that normally when Parliament was in session, the Government does not announce any policy decision outside the House. In this context he wanted to know the basis for the report in the 'Statesman'. Shri Rajnarain also urged the same point and wanted to know what was the position of the Government with reference to this report. I promised to go into the proceedings and let the House have my views in the matter and thereafter if the Home Minister thought that he had to give any statement, he would do it

I have now gone through the proceedings and the report in the "Statesman". I have no doubt that the report published by the "Statesman" is one of considerable public interest. While it is true that newspapers have the freedom to publish news stories of this nature, I feel that the present is an instance of sufficient importance calling for a statement from Government, so that the public may know the correct position in the matter. I have already received some calling attention notices on this subject, and I would, therefore, like the Home Minister to make a statement. The statement may be made tomorrow in response to the Calling Attention notices.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Thank you very much, Sir.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE HOME MINISTER RE ALLEGED OFFENSIVE REMARKS MADE BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

MR. CHAIRMAN: I propose to allow one-hour short duration discussion at 5 p.m. on Saturday, the 11th May, 1968 on the statement made by

†Transferred from the 9th May, 1968, where it appeared as Starred Question No. 251.