

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : श्रीमन्, गांधी जी की मूर्ति स्थापित करने के बारे में कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन जार्ज पंचम का पुतला हटाने के बारे में देर क्यों हो रही है वहां किस की मूर्ति लगाई जाए, कब लगाई जाय, इस सवाल पर विचार आगे किया जा सकता है, लेकिन जार्ज पंचम का पुतला हटाने में क्या कठिनाई है ? क्या सरकार इस बात के लिये रुकी हुई है कि कोई वहां जाय, मूर्ति के ऊपर तारकोल पोते और फिर बाद में मूर्ति हटाई जाए ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : जहां तक तारकोल पोतने का सवाल है, वह तो माननीय सदस्य और उनकी पार्टी ज्यादा जानते होंगे। जहां तक हमारा विचार है, अगर हम किंग जार्ज की मूर्ति को वहां से हटाएं तो मैं नहीं चाहता कि वह जगह खाली रहे, दोनों का फैसला एक ही साथ होना चाहिए।

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: In a recent report published in the newspapers it was mentioned that it has been decided that Mahatma Gandhi's statue would not be put on the pedestal where King George's statue stands. Is this information incorrect?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The information is quite the other way round.

PALAI CENTRAL BANK

*837. SHRI D. THENGARI :
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN† :
DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to payment of dues to depositors of the Palai Central Bank (under liquidation);

(b) the number of such depositors and the amount outstanding against them; and

(c) whether some concrete steps have been taken by Government against the Board of Directors of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI) : (a) About 65% of the amounts due to the depositors

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. K. Kumaran.

has been paid up to the 31st December, 1965.

(b) The total number of depositors was 80,297. Of these, 53,864 depositors have received payments in full, while 26,433 depositors are still to receive payment to the extent of a total amount of Rs. 3.03 crores.

(c) On a misfeasance application filed by the Official Liquidator under Section 45H of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and Section 543(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 against the directors, auditors and other officers of the bank, the Kerala High Court has recently granted two decrees for a total amount of Rs. 2.57 crores to be recovered jointly or severally from ten persons. As stay has been granted by the High Court against one of the decrees and appeal proceedings are apprehended against both the decrees steps to recover the decreetal amounts cannot presently be taken.

*838. [The questioners (Shri M. M. Dharia and Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe) were absent. For answer vide col. 4990 infra.]

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE L. I. C. STAFF BY THE "INDIAN OBSERVER"

*839. PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a large number of field workers and other staff of the Life Insurance Corporation offices of Delhi demonstrated publicly on the 19th and 26th November, 1965 against certain allegations made against the staff and field workers of the L.I.C. by the 'Indian Observer' in its series of issues;

(b) whether it is a fact that the staff of the L.I.C. have sent a memorandum of complaints to Government against the said paper in this connection; and

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take some steps against this paper which is spreading obscenity in the public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution passed by the North Zone of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers and forwarded by them to the Zonal Manager of the Life Insurance Corporation conveyin g