

numbers of these receipt books. Yet, if the hon. Member so desires, I shall again convey this to the Mayor of the Corporation.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Has any action been taken against those who have lost these precious receipt books?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: What kind of action could be taken? They are not official they are non-officials generally. But if it is possible to take action and if it is proved clearly that there has been some misuse, certainly action could be contemplated but nothing has been done so far.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The number given is 107; it may sound small compared to the total number of receipt books issued but that would not throw light on exactly how much may have been collected through these receipt books. May I know why the Government could not have made some investigation to find out exactly the process through which these receipt books were passed on, by whom and to whom. All these things could be easily found out. I do not know why the Government is leaving the matter only to the Mayor when there is a strong presumption of some fraud on the part of some people.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: This matter has to be dealt with by the Mayor in consultation, if he likes, with the Delhi Administration. If they can take any action, they are in a position to do so but as far as I am aware they considered this matter in the Mayor's Council and they made some probes, carried out investigations and some special enquiries were also held. After having done all that, the matter was placed before the Executive Committee of the Council and it was decided to recommend to the General House of the Council that this matter may now be closed. This is their latest report. Now it will

come to us, the Executive Council of the National Defence Council, and we will further look into the matter.

*170. [The questioner (Shri P. L. Kureel urf Talib) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 895-896 infra.]

RELEASE OF COL. G. L. BHATTACHARYA

*171. { SHRI P. ABRAHAM†:
SHRI U. S. DUGAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Col. G. L. Bhattacharya has been released by the Government of Pakistan on the 1st November, 1964; and

(b) if so, whether Col. Bhattacharya has submitted any report to Government about the hardships suffered by him while he was detained in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Col. G. L. Bhattacharya was released by the Government of Pakistan on 31st October, 1964.

(b) Col. Bhattacharya is preparing his report and this is expected to be ready shortly.

SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Has the Government paid back the amount spent by Col. Bhattacharya for his defence in Pakistan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have no information about that.

श्री भिमलकुमार मन्नालालजी
चौरडिया : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायें कि उन्होंने कोई इस तरह की मांग शासन से की अथवा नहीं कि मेरा इतना खर्चा वहाँ पर अपने केस को डिफेंड करने में हुआ है और वह सरकार मुझे दे ?

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

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I have no information on that because this matter, it may be recalled is under Defence and the expenditure incurred is a matter which happened several years ago, rather three or four years ago.

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: After he has come here.

AN. HON. MEMBER: It was only 1962.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes; 1962 is two years back. If hon. Members are interested about information on that score I will certainly supply it if they table a separate question. This question was about his release from there. As I said, he is preparing a report.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
प्रश्न यह है कि कर्नल भट्टाचार्य* अभी छूटे हैं और उन्होंने यहां आने के बाद क्या शासन से यह मांग की है कि अपने केंस को डिफेंड करने में मेरा इनाम रुपया खर्च हुआ है और वह मुझे शासन दे दे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he asked now after his return?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. Not to my information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We read in the newspapers that immediately on his release he came straight to Delhi instead of stopping at Calcutta. May I know whether it was done at the instance of the Government and whether in this connection the question of expenditure for conducting a case was discussed?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have already mentioned that the question of the expenditure incurred by him has not been formally represented by him not to my knowledge at any rate. If and when he represents, we will certainly consider it.

1013 RS-2.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here is an officer of the Government of India who was prosecuted and persecuted there and the Government should know exactly all these things. *Suo motu* the Government should take up this matter and find out exactly how much money has been spent and who spent it. Why is the Government not taking the initiative in the matter instead of leaving it to the officer to make a claim on that account?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a good suggestion; I will pursue it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know whether his salary has been paid or not with retrospective effect?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have no information.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This is a peculiar thing. The Colonel came to Delhi and he had discussions with the Government of India. Are we to understand that the Colonel did not mention anything about himself and they are waiting for the report to be prepared after two or three months? For what did he come to Delhi? Did he not discuss anything with the Government of India or their officials about his salary, about his personal comforts and discomforts? Are we to understand that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Mentioning something in a discussion is one thing and making a formal report is quite another thing. For the information of the House, I might add that the family of Col. Bhattacharya was being paid during the period he was in prison there.

*172. [The questioner (Shri S. K. Vaishampayan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 896-897 infra.]

INDO-CEYLON AGREEMENT

*173. **SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS