

AUTONOMY TO THE HILL AREA OF ASSAM

♦65. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's Extension has been drawn to the report of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee disapproving of the Prime Minister's proposals to provide greater autonomy to the hill area in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether as a result thereof, Government are going to change these proposals and, if so, in what direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: (a) and (b) So far as Government are aware, a subcommittee appointed jointly by the Executive Committees of the Assam Pradesh Congress and the Assam Congress Parliamentary Party had recently gone into this matter and the President of the Assam P. C. C. was authorised to convey the comments of the sub-committee to the Prime Minister and seek further clarifications from him. There have been no further developments so far.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Madam, I should like to ask the hon. Minister to let us know the main grounds of objection of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee or the sub-committee which have been outlined in the representation to the Prime Minister.

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: Madam, one was how far the appointment of Ministers was compatible with the joint responsibility of the Government. There were certain other factors also as to how it would operate, how they would function together, what sort of subjects would be transferred, how the question of finances would be decided, how the Bills would be initiated, etc. But since no definite proposals have yet been formulated, the objections are in the nature of ap-

prehensions rather than any real objections.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Madam, I should like to ask the Minister whether anybody in the Government of India has made a study of this so-called Scottish pattern of autonomy and whether any official of the Government of India has gone to Scotland to find out what that pattern of autonomy is and whether it is liked by the Scottish people and also whether forces of integration or disintegration are at work in respect of the Scottish pattern.

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: Madam, I understand that, the hon. Member was recently in Scotland and made an intimate study there and if he has any suggestions to make in this connection, we shall be very grateful to receive those suggestions. So far as the other suggestion is concerned, namely, deputing somebody to see its actual working, that is a suggestion worth consideration.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a Secretary of State for Scotland and there is a Scottish Committee of the House of Commons to which all Scottish matters are referred?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: That is the pattern which we intend to draw upon.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the hill people concerned are satisfied with the Prime Minister's recommendation and if not since it is a long-standing trouble and creates complications what steps do the Government propose to take in order to allay their resentment or dissatisfaction?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: By and large, Madam, I believe that responsible people have accepted that Assam should continue as a single integrated constituent of the Federation. Within that the question is how far autonomy is to be extended.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, I Madam, whether the hill leaders are agreeable to the proposal and whether any Commission is going to be appointed and how far it is practicable to give shape to the proposal?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVTS: It is contemplated that as a result of some kind of further talks a Commission would be appointed to work out the details of autonomy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY

•66. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities in the country at the end of the year 1963; and

(b) how many of these universities impart specialised training in science and technology?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) 55 universities.

(b) Specialised training in Engineering and Technology is provided in 42 universities.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know as to how many of them are teaching universities and how many are merely affiliating universities?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: I cannot say off-hand.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या गवर्नमेंट को मालूम है कि अब इस समय भी देश में कई ऐसी यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं जिनमें भूगर्भशास्त्र यानी ज्योलाजी को पढ़ाने का कोई प्रवन्ध नहीं है ?

श्री भक्त दर्शन : जी हाँ, मालूम है

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : इसका प्रावधान करने में क्या कठिनाई हो रही है ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Deokinandan Narayan.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know whether there is any proposal to establish Central universities in certain parts of the country with Hindi as the medium of instruction?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Madam, this question has been examined several times and it has been postponed for the present.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know how many more universities are likely to come up by the end of the Third Plan?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: The whole question is under examination by a special committee appointed by the University Grants Commission.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: The hon. Minister said just now that the question of starting universities with Hindi medium had been postponed. May I know the reason why this has been postponed? Has it been postponed on account of antagonism on the part of certain sections of the people or has it been postponed for practical reasons?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: The reasons are obvious, Madam.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if any steps are being taken to establish universities during the Third Plan period at Naini Tal, Meerut and Kanpur?

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Some suggestions have been made by the State Government and they are under examination by the University Grants Commission.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether it is a fact that such technical colleges like medical and engineering colleges are being opened