

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I am sorry, because we do not have full statistics of the production.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know whether the paper used in the making of these playing cards is foreign or Indian?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Indian.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if there is any import of these playing cards?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir. It is banned.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the hon. Minister can give us some idea of the number of playing cards consumed every year?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I am sorry.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware of the widespread complaint that the playing cards manufactured in the country are of a very poor quality and whether the Government is taking any steps to effect improvement?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Improvements are being made in the papers which are produced in our country and they are gradually getting better.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: May I know, Sir, whether any import of foreign paper for playing cards is being allowed at present?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir.

CONFIRMATION OF ENGINEERS IN C. P. W. D.

*901. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Class I Engineers in the C.P.W.D. are going to be confirmed in the near future;

(b) if so, the number of such Engineers category-wise;

(c) the approximate time that will be taken to issue the confirmation orders;

(d) whether Class I direct recruits are given preference in the case of confirmations;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof;

(f) whether the orders of the Ministry of Home Affairs that 80 per cent, of the vacancies should be declared as permanent ones, if they are existing for more than three years for the purpose of confirmation, are being strictly adhered to in this case; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANATH RAO);

(a) Yes.

(b) Superintending Engineers	
(Civil)....	7
Superintending Engineers	
(Electrical) ...	2
Executive Engineers (Civi')	34
Executive Engineers (Elec	
trical)	11

(c) The case is under consideration in consultation with the U.P.S.C.

(d) According to the Recruitment Rules, two-thirds of the permanent posts of Executive Engineers are allocated to officers directly recruited to Class I Service. There is no preference otherwise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The criterion prescribed by the Ministry of Finance is that 80 per cent of the temporary posts which have been in existence for a period of not less than three years and which are likely to be required for work of a permanent nature may be converted into permanent ones. An

assessment is made from time to time, of the number of temporary posts likely to be required for work of a permanent nature and they are made permanent.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Among the Executive Engineers that have been recruited may I know, Sir, the number belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I want notice.

NAGA REBELS FINANCED BY FOREIGN FIRMS

/SHRI NIREN GHOSH: ⁹¹²- \DR. A. SUBBA RAO:f

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an editorial in the Calcutta newspaper 'Jugantar' dated June 23, 1962, to the effect that certain foreign firms of Calcutta are financing the Naga rebels; and

(b) if so, what are the actual facts in this matter?

THE MINISTER or STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have not come across any evidence which would lead to any such conclusion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether in this connection the Government tried to find out from the paper particulars about these firms on the basis of which this particular editorial was written, and the exact manner of investigation that was made?

[The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. A. Subba Rao.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: investigation was made but there is no basis at all for the comment of the paper.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The point is that the editor of a responsible paper supporting the Congress wrote such an editorial. May I know, Sir, whether the Government took steps to find out on what basis the editorial was written?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, I have pointed out that there is no basis at all. Government have made all enquiries, and the editorial itself is not sure, whether it was saying the correct thing, because it says, "If this is correct, if the Government is in possession of documentary proof" etc. etc. They themselves are not sure. It is a kind of kite-flying which newspapers sometimes indulge in.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes. we are living in the days of kite-flying. My question was very specific; since the editorial has been written, may I know whether the editor of that paper was asked to say something on this subject in order that the Government could carry on the necessary investigation? Or did the Government come to its own conclusion by merely looking at the editorial?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He would like to know on what basis the editorial was written.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We cannot say on what basis an editor writes his articles. Some editors write entirely out of their heads regardless of facts. But it is a fairly common occurrence. We enquired into the matter and I cannot say whether anybody went to interview the editor, but I take it that the editor was also asked about it, that somebody saw him. Normally this was being done. I have no exact information whether this was done in this case, but anyhow our information is this that there is no basis for it. I might add that the Naga In-