

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st August, 1961/ 30th
Shravana, 1883 (*Suka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR.
 DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI V. T. Krishnamachari (Nominated)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ASSESSEES FOR WEALTH TAX IN CALCUTTA, ETC.

•189. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the
 Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of assesseees for wealth
 tax for the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 in
 Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur,
 Ahmedabad and Delhi; and

(b) the number of assesseees in the
 country who have so far been assessed on
 their individual wealth of Rs. 50 lakhs and
 above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE
 (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) : (a) The
 number of wealth tax assesseees as at the end
 of the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 in the
 respective cities was as under:

City	Number of wealth tax assesseees	
	as on 31-3-1959	as on 31-3-1960
Calcutta	7,022	6,771
Bombay	10,420	10,412
Madras	1,056	980
Kanpur	285	318
Ahmedabad	1,773	1,554
Delhi	1,452	1,278
TOTAL	22,008	21,313

(b) The number of wealth tax assesseees
 who have been assessed till 31st March,
 1961 on their individual wealth of Rs. 50
 lakhs and above was 102.

373 RS.—1

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, in
 view of the fact that the minimum assessable
 is Rs. 2 lakhs, namely, above Rs. 2 lakhs is to
 be taxed in the case of individuals, how is it
 that the number is so small in the cities
 individually and also collectively taken
 together? Do I understand that a large number
 of people otherwise assessable under the
 Wealth Tax have not been assessed?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA:
 Whatever cases have come to the notice of
 the Department, if they are assessable under
 the Wealth Tax, are being assessed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I come from
 Calcutta and I know by going round the city
 that there will be so many more who would
 come under this Act . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: By
 just going round the city?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes and I would
 ask the hon. Minister to go round with me if
 she likes. How is it that the number is small?
 May I know whether the Government have
 made any investigation in view of the small
 number of assessed persons and may I know
 whether a large number of people have been
 left out and, if so, why so?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: The
 Government is always vigilant and any case
 that comes to the notice of the Government is
 never left out.

SHRI R. B. SINHA: Is the hon. Member
 one of those who have been left out?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have never seen
 Rs. 1 lakh. Will you show me? How is it that
 constantly we are told even by the
 Government Party people that the
 concentration of wealth is growing and at the
 same time we find that compared to 1958-59,
 the number of assesseees in the next year has
 declined and how is it that only 102 people are
 there in the country whose wealth goes to over
 Rs. 50 lakhs when everybody knows.

that big houses have their children, each one of whom probably has a crore . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No arguments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Does she know that there are families such as Birlas, Tatas and Dalmia Jains whose children are worth more than a crore of rupees each? How is it that in the whole of the country they have taxed only 102 people in the category of Rs. 50 lakhs and above?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: This only shows that the hon. Member is talking out of his imagination and not out of facts.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if agricultural estates are included in this number?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is Very wrong. When I enquire for figures it is not right to say that I am trotting out the question out of my imagination.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Facts are given.

REPORTS OF INQUIRIES INTO THE ASSAM LINGUISTIC DISTURBANCES

/SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA*: • \ DR.
Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports of the inquiries held in regard to the Assam linguistic disturbances of the last year;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the light of these reports; and

(c) what is the reason for delaying the constitution of a comprehensive

±The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

overall probe into the above incidents as per the decisions of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE in the MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (Sane B. N. DATAR): (a) The State Government of Assam received the reports of the two Commissions of Inquiry constituted to enquire into the incidents that took place in July, 1960 at Gauhati and Goreswar and published them on 31st July, 1961. The Assam Government have sent copies of the reports to the Central Government.

(b) In their resolutions containing their orders and observations on the two reports, the State Government have indicated the action they have taken and the action they propose to take. The Central Government on their part have taken steps to resolve the differences on the language question, and thus help in restoration of harmony; and they will continue their efforts in this direction.

(c) These two Commissions have already examined the general causes of the disturbances and they have also suggested specific measures to remedy the situation. A third Commission has been recently appointed by the State Government to enquire into the incidents that took place at Silchar on 19th May, 1961. As already indicated a number of measures towards a settlement have been taken both by the Central and State Governments and there has been general agreement that a fair trial should be given to the language formula that has emerged as a result of the discussion during the last three months. The appointment of a Commission at this juncture to make a general inquiry into the circumstances resulting in the disturbances in Assam in July, 1960 will stir up memories of the past incidents and will rouse passions all over again. Such a step is not considered advisable at this time when the atmosphere is favourable for a settlement with the agreement of all.