

DR. R. B. GOUR : The Home Minister, Mr. Datar, himself said yesterday on the Constitution Amendment Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put a question.

DR. R. B. GOUR : In view of the fact that the hon. the Home Minister said yesterday that article 347 of the Constitution is open to the minorities, I would request him to enlighten me what steps he is going to take in this regard when we have particularly demanded it?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Sir, I have already said whatever had to be said, and Government would now consider whether article 347 can be availed of in this particular instance.

FOREIGN BUSINESS OF INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANIES

*631. SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding life insurance business by Indian Insurance Companies in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, which are the Indian Insurance Companies which have been selected for this business, and what are the principles on which this selection has been made ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Life Insurance Corporation of India proposes to carry on life insurance business in foreign countries also; the question of selecting Indian Insurance companies for the purpose does not therefore arise.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know, Sir, what are the reasons which have led the Government to the taking over of the foreign life insurance business of the former Indian insurance companies by the Insurance Corporation of India, about which the Government had formerly anticipated difficulties, and may I also know, Sir, in what way these difficulties have been overcome now ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, according to the Act, life insurance business, whether inside or outside India, vests in

the Corporation, and the Select Committee left it open, in the case of the business outside India, for the Corporation either to take it over itself or to give it to any company, and I think the factors that weighed in favour of the Corporation taking it over were mainly the need to service its existing business and also, if possible, to write fresh business.

DR. R. P. DUBE : What about the Indian companies that are doing foreign business ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I think the companies number a score and ten and they are.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not necessary to read all that.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK : May I know, Sir, what is the volume of foreign business expressed as a percentage of the Indian business ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The foreign business is a little over Rs. 82 crores and I think it a simple case of calculation to find out the percentage.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know, Sir, whether the Government has considered the fact that this taking over of the foreign life business by the Indian Corporation will have an adverse effect on the working of the Indian insurance companies dealing in foreign general insurance business along with the life insurance business, and whether this will not result in making this general business uneconomic to them and thus losing some valuable foreign exchange ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I think all these matters were examined in the Select Committee and also by the Corporation when they took the decision and it was found that in the case of those companies which are having a large volume of general business and life business was only a small part of it, it would not affect their economic position, but for those companies which were having very small general business, naturally the volume of life business was not such as to make it economic if it was uneconomic otherwise.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Do Government propose to have motor insurance business? If not, why not?

(No reply)

SHRI KISHEN CHAND : May I ask the hon. Minister, Sir, in view of the fact that foreign business is only Rs. 82 crores spread over a large part of the area, will it be economic for the Government to carry on this business in foreign countries ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : All these matters have been taken into consideration and on the basis of the assessment made the ultimate decision was taken that it would be wise to take up this business.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA : May I know whether all the countries where life insurance business by Indian companies is being carried on, are willing to permit the Government to run the life insurance business, or are there any likely impediments ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : So far as we can visualise the ambit of the Corporation's work in various countries is limited to the field that is now available to us. If problems of the nature envisaged by the hon. Member arise, they will have to be dealt with as and when they arise. There is no use meeting the trouble more than half way.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND : May I know, Sir, if the expense ratio of the two types of business will be kept separate so that we can ascertain whether the foreign business is economic or not ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The suggestion of the hon. Member will be noted.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : In view of the fact that general insurance and life insurance are kept separate and in view of the fact that in foreign countries in the case of the companies there by this separation both will be uneconomic may I know whether the Government is considering to take over general insurance also where they have got institutions for running the life insurance business ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I do not accept the validity of the first assumption.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the booking of new life business by Indian companies has been disallowed in Pakistan since the nationalisation of the life business in India, and may I also know, Sir, whether any other country has banned this business in their territories likewise ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I want notice for this.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : This I have read in to-day's paper.

USE OF PAMPHLETS AND STATEMENTS ISSUED FROM DELHI BY THE PAKISTAN PRESS AND RADIO

*632. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the communique issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Press interview given by the Chief Minister of that State in Delhi that pamphlets and statements issued from time to time from Delhi are being made use of by the Pakistan Press and Radio and they are published in the Pakistan Press even before they reach those to whom they are actually addressed.

(b) whether Government have considered the above communique; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a), (b) and (c). Yes, Sir, apart from the communique issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Press interview given by the Prime Minister of that State, Government also have had information about the Pamphlets and statements which are being issued from time to time by certain persons from Delhi. The Hon'ble Member will, however, realise that under our laws, a great deal of freedom is permissible even to propaganda of this type. I shall,