

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 17th May 1956

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT

*251. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken about the preparation and publication of the History of Freedom Movement in India;

(b) if so, what is the decision;

(c) whether the material collected will be made available to research scholars working on this subject; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, under what conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The question of making the material available for use by research scholars will arise only after the History of Freedom Movement has been written.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know as to when the Government proposes to take a decision in respect of the History of the Freedom Movement in India?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: After the material is fully collected.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how much more time the Government proposes to take for the collection of the material?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Till the end of the current calendar year.

43 RDS—1.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : क्या मैं यह जान सकती हूँ कि किन किन सोर्सेज से यह मैटीरियल इकट्ठा किया जा रहा है ?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: There are so many sources not only in this country but also in other countries of the world.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know as to how the Government has decided on the end of this year as the final date by which all the materials would have been collected?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The point is that they will be able to complete the collection of the material by the end of this year.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are we to understand that the Board which was constituted and which has now been dissolved was set up only for the collection of the material and not for preparing the history?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The Board was not dissolved. The term of the Board expired, and no extension was given to the Board.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How does it matter? In practice it means that the Board was constituted for collecting certain materials. The material is now lying idle and the Government is not taking any decision. Nor is the Government taking any decision regarding the granting of facilities to scholars for utilising this material.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put it in the form of a question.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether the Government is serious about this or not?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Government is very serious about it, and it is now engaged in the collection of material. When the collection of material is completed, they will con-

sider the question of writing and publishing the History of the Freedom Movement.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know if and how the collection of the material is going on now?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Material is being received from the Regional Committees established by the State Governments. Material is also being collected by Records and Archives.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : लार्ड कर्जन के जमाने के कुछ कागजात, जो कि ब्रिटिश आर्काइव्स में बतलाये जाते हैं, हमारी आजादी की लड़ाई से बहुत कुछ संबंध रखते हैं। क्या सरकार ने उनको प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की है? यदि की है तो उसमें क्या कामयाबी हासिल हुई और अगर नहीं की है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: If the hon. Member wants to go into such details, I will have to ask for notice.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : क्या सरकार को यह विदित है कि प्रचार, पब्लिसिटी के अभाव के कारण देश में अब भी बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जिनके पास बहुत सा ऐसा मैटीरियल है लेकिन वे सरकार की इस योजना से बिल्कुल अनभिज्ञ हैं?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: No, Sir. Government is conscious of that, and that is the reason why a press note has been issued asking people to send if there is at their disposal any material which could be used for writing this history.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : क्या किन्हीं अखबारों में भी इसका प्रचार किया गया है?

(No reply.)

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: Why was the term of the Board not extended?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: At the beginning when the Board was appointed, the Board could not imagine that there would be so much material available for writing the history, but afterwards the Board found that there was still material to be collected, and they wanted an extension of their term and also more money. The Government did not give any extension and they thought that the rest of the work could be taken over by the Archives.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: How is it that the Members of the Board were so unimaginative in imagining that there would be very little material available for writing the History of the Freedom Movement in India?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The Board thought that the former British Government had destroyed all the material, but it was found later that that was not quite true.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether the Government will publish the material that they have received irrespective of the writing of the history?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: There is no such proposal before the Government now.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know as to whether the Soviet Government asked for permission for the use of some material connected with the history of the Mutiny, as it is called, for preparing their own Centenary Volume of the same next year?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: These are too big questions to answer off-hand. I want notice.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: In view of the fact that documents of national importance are coming out from the custody of private individuals or private institutions, may I know whether any effort has been made by the Government to see that such

documents are given to the Government for this purpose?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I have said that press notes have been issued asking people to inform the Archives.

TRANSFER OF RECORDS OF THE MERGED STATES TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

*252. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction was given to the merged States in 1949 for the transfer of their old records to the National Archives;

(b) if so, what action was taken by the States in response to this direction; and

(c) if the records have not yet been transferred to the National Archives, where and under whose custody and control they are being kept at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): (a) The Central Government issued no such directions in 1949 to the Governments of the Indian States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The records are with the respective State Governments.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I invite the attention of the hon. the Deputy Minister to the publication "National Archives of India", quinquennial review, an official publication, page 4, where it is said:

"In 1949 the Government of India directed that all records of merged States should be transferred to the National Archives, and requested the Princes to give records in their private possession as gifts to this Department. But the Director of Archives suggested that, as there was shortage of storage space and a paucity of staff in this Department, it would be more convenient for these records to remain where they

were, provided their integrity was maintained by the new authorities; and the Government of India issued a directive to this effect."

I would like to know if the Ministry is prepared to place these documents on the Table of the House.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The information is something different from the information which has been supplied to me. I would enquire about it.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will he place the documents on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that he would look into that.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether the documents with the National Archives would be published for the benefit of the public for the purpose of enabling research to be carried on?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Yes, certainly, when the time will come, they will be made available to the public.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How was it then that his reply was different when I asked whether the material collected in connection with the history of the Freedom Movement in India will be published irrespective of whether the history is written or not?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The main point is that all these collections were made to write the history of the freedom movement. So, the first question before the Government is to write that history. When it is written, the other question will be taken up.

*253. [For answer, vide cols. 2408-09 infra.]

REMITTANCES TO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN INDIA

*254. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state: