

DR. P. C. MITRA: But what was the total amount of this separation debt?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, the question is about the import of this rice. Anyway, I may inform the hon. Member that the total amount then, that is to say, in 1937, was Rs. 51 crores, approximately.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, is there no other way of recovering this separation debt from Burma than by the importing of rice? And is it advisable on the part of our Government to import this rice when we are ourselves surplus in the production of rice?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Prime Minister had replied this very question last year. We have entered into an agreement with Government of Burma and it has been agreed to purchase 9 lakh tons of rice and at that time it was agreed by the Government of India that a price of £13 per ton was to be given towards the adjustment of debt.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the Government thinking of revoking the agreement, especially in view of the changed conditions in our country brought about by the surplus production of rice here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about the working of the agreement and
ment and

SHRI M. C. SHAH: After all, it is an undertaking and

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is about the working of the agreement and change of agreement is beyond this question.

(Interruptions.)

No, I am merely ruling out a question which does not arise from the main question.

ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SATYAGRAHA IN MANIPUR STATE

*316. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested so far in Manipur State since the starting of the Satyagraha there on the 15th November 1954;

(b) how many of them have been convicted;

(c) how many of the convicted persons are women; and

(d) whether the convicted persons are being treated as political prisoners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) 553 persons were arrested up to the 7th March 1955.

(b) 308.

(c) None.

(d) There is no such category of prisoners as 'Political Prisoners' in Manipur State.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Sir, may I know whether these arrested persons are being given the facilities that are generally given to political prisoners although there is no such classification specifically in the jail rules?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: My impression is that they are given certain special facilities like the supply of books.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know, Sir, whether at any time the Government of India made any attempt to speak to the arrested people about their agitation and to negotiate with them?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It was for the State Government to consider, for the Chief Commissioner there to consider, and he must have taken all these circumstances into account.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: As the satyagraha is on the demand for the introduction of responsible government there, is it not the duty of the Central Government to have talks with those arrested persons as regards the subject matter of their agitation?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Our agents for Manipur are following all the civilised methods.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: What are their offences?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The offences are

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But my question was.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Mr. Mazumdar asks: "Since we are a democratic State and since the Manipur people are asking for the establishment of democratic institutions in Manipur State, are the Government of India taking any steps to arrange some talks with them on this question?" Is that your question?

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The question of talks has no bearing on democratic institutions. Anyway, we are extending all the natural facilities to them.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Are the Government of India prepared to

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about the treatment of these prisoners. We are now proceeding beyond that, to democratic institutions, extension of civil liberties and all that.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The question is, on what grounds were they arrested? What was their offence?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is what I was going to say: violation of the order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Some were

proceeded against under section 107 and others in respect of special offences that they had committed.

(Several hon. Members stood up.)

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But what is the reason

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many at the same time? One at a time.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What was the reason for violation of the order under section 144?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: So far as the reasons are concerned, I can tell them only in a general way. A proclamation was passed under section 144 and this order was broken and therefore a large number of persons were arrested and proceeded against.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But what was the reason for these persons breaking this order against the holding of meetings?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The order was passed in the interest of maintaining law and order and it may also (Interruption by Shri B. C. Ghose) I have not yet finished. I may also point out to the hon. Member that a sort of so-called "Satyagraha" is going on there and their agitation is for the purpose of popular government there.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: By the P. S. P.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: So-called agitation?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I said "so-called Satyagraha", not agitation.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: So agitation is not "so-called Satyagraha"?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Agitation might assume different forms, even a violent form.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Inasmuch as the agitation is for a popular government in Manipur for which the

people have broken the law, what action have the Government taken to fulfil the desire of the people?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They gave assurances to the people and the organisers of this agitation that Government would take necessary measures in consultation with the people after the report of the States Reorganisation Commission was received.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Just two questions and I may put them together. In the first place, I wish to know what are the "special offences" in view of the fact that in the Indian Penal Code there is nothing like "special offence". What are these special offences? And secondly.....

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I may answer them one by one?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, he will put the two questions together.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: And secondly, Sir, may I know, if out of the 553 persons, 300 have been convicted, what has happened to the rest? Did the court find them really not guilty of the charges?

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all, what are the special offences since there is no such category in the Indian Penal Code and, secondly,.....

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I never stated 'special offences'. Sir. I only mentioned about offences under the ordinary law.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, I contest it. The Reporters may be asked to produce the script.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give him a chance.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I would like to point out to this House, Sir, that there were offences in relation to the violation of the order under section 144; there were proceedings under section 107 for security reasons and

then there were specific cases where charges were framed under the ordinary law. .

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir, I contest it. He said 'special offences',

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he meant was the third category of special offences. Come to the next point; what happened to the people who were released?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Not released, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not convicted.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Those who were released have been released

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Not released, Sir. They were not convicted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 553 persons were arrested and 308 were convicted. What happened to the rest?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDITJ: They are under-trials.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I shall give the whole break-up so that all questions would be answered. The total number arrested is 553; 137 were released.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Who released them?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Investigation is going on in six cases. The prosecution was for 410 people and convictions were in respect of 308 cases; in five cases there were acquittals and the number of pending cases is 97.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Since when are they pending?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: From the time the agitation started.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I wish to know the date, Sir. I also wish to know—as my previous question has not been answered—whether the courts found them not guilty of the

charges preferred against them by the Government.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is only in five cases; people have been convicted in 305 cases and the rest are proceeding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*317. [The questioner (Babu Gopi-nath Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2695 infra.]

*318. [For answer, vide col. 2692 infra.]

INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE RULES FOR PENSIONS AND GRATUITY

*319. DR. RAGHU VIRAR: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules regarding pensions and gratuity for the I.A.S. officers have been finalised and published by Government; if not, why not;

(b) whether a number of I.A.S. officers who were promoted from the Provincial Civil Services have in the meantime retired; and

(c) whether Government are aware that such retired officers are put to hardship in the absence of Government's decision regarding their pension and gratuity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (P.1 No, as the quantum of pension is still under consideration,

(b) Yes.

(c) Interim orders have already been issued for the grant of provisional pension. Commutation of pension is also allowed on a provisional basis.

डा० रघुवीर : इन नियमों के बनाने के लिए क्या कोई विशेष अधिकारी नियुक्त नहीं किया गया जो यही कार्य करता और इसको शीघ्र समाप्त करता ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: This question had to be taken up with the State Governments; there were certain differences of opinion about the quantum and the effort was to resolve all these differences and this accounts for the delay.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the hon. Minister aware that this stock reply has been given by him in this House. I believe, thrice and how many more times does he think such a reply will satisfy this House?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: If you will allow me, Sir, we are coming to a decision at a very early date, meaning "early" in its natural sense, in the course of a few months.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I recall this fact to the memory of the hon. Minister that last session he gave an assurance that this would be decided before the end of the session?

PROF. G. RANGA: He does not remember.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am not quite sure whether I gave such an assurance. Assuming that I have given such an assurance, then I am sorry there is some unavoidable delay in the matter.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: How long has this been pending before the Cabinet?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: This question has been before the Cabinet, if I remember correctly, for about three or four months. They will take up this question at an early date. I might assure the hon. Member of that.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is it that the Cabinet is finding it so difficult to settle in this matter for four months?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The Cabinet has to consider various aspects. As I pointed out, there were certain differences for which reason this matter had to go before the Cabinet.