

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 13th May 1954

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS TO THE PRESIDENT

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

(a) whether any representations were submitted by certain sections of the inhabitants of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the President during his recent visit to these islands;

(b) if so, which are the sections of the inhabitants who submitted such representations; and

(c) what are the main points made out in those representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) and (b). Two representations were submitted to the President during his recent visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. One was by the Andaman Indians Association and the other by the Bangiya Upanibeshi Samity on behalf of the refugee settlers in the Islands. These representations were not submitted through the Andamans Administration.

(c) As regards the main point urged in the representation submitted by the Andaman Indians Association, I lay on the Table of the Council a statement giving the required information.

The second representation submitted by the Bangiya Upanibeshi Samity has not so far been received by the Government. The main points brought forth in this representation will be laid on the Table of the Council on its receipt from the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

30 CSD.

STATEMENT

List of the main points urged in the representation presented to the President by the Andaman Indians Association.

1. *Constitutional status.*—(i) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be democratized on the same lines on which changes are being made in Part C States.

(ii) Representative to Parliament from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be elected rather than nominated by the President.

(iii) The Members of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council should be elected rather than nominated and the powers of this Council should be defined and included in the form of an Act and by convention the Chief Commissioner must abide by the unanimous decision of the Council.

2. *Education.*—(i) Educational conditions in the Islands should be improved. The system of appointing teachers who are aliens to the mother tongue of pupils should be changed. Standard of education may be raised to Intermediate status.

(ii) A separate girls school should be opened.

(iii) Ten State scholarships as existed earlier should be sanctioned for higher studies.

3. Instructions should be issued to the Andamans Administration to reserve all lands in South Andaman for the old settlers. The old settlers who are unable to find land in South Andaman may also be settled in the new area.

4. Compensation should be granted for loss of property, damage to coconut cultivation and buildings etc., caused during the Japanese occupation of the Islands and for forcible exchange of Indian currency by the Japanese with the Japanese military currency which was demonetised by the Government of India.

5. Local people should be appointed to higher posts and they should be granted preference in all future appointments.

6. Andamans Special Pay should also be granted to the local recruits to avoid discriminatory treatment.

7. Prohibition should be introduced in the Islands.

8. Andaman Indians may be included in the category of the Backward Classes and all facilities for advancement be given to them.

9. The question of fixation of price of timber for local consumption should be based upon the recommendations of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council.

10. The scheme to augment the present water supply system should be approved immediately.

11. The present Land Regulations should be changed and common land laws as prevalent in the mainland should be introduced in the Islands.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether any action has been taken or is contemplated on the main points urged in the representation by the Andaman Indians Association?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Some of the points urged had already been before the Government and in respect of others we have called for a report from the Chief Commissioner, and then final action will be taken.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Their demands can be classified into two categories. One category of demands relates to proposals regarding constitutional reforms. May I know whether the Government have given any attention to this question of having a constitutionally elected Advisory Council or providing for a elected representative to Parliament?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That question was considered formerly and has also

been answered. At present the Government are not inclined to introduce the elective element.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: That was not answered here, Sir. That may have been answered in another place. The question that was once raised here was about an elected Municipal Council, not about the Advisory Council.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I see.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: There are some other demands which pertain to questions of immediate relief to these people—the question of fixation of the price of timber for local consumption, the scheme for augmenting the present water supply and so on. I want to know, whether any action has been taken or is being taken in the matter.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We have called for a report, as I said. So far as timber is concerned, we have to consult also the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and therefore some time is likely to elapse.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But is it not a fact, Sir, that previously either the Government of India or the Chief Commissioner in Andaman and Nicobar Islands issued an order that timber will be supplied to the local people at reduced rates, but the Forest Department has not implemented that order?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, I am not aware of this, but I shall make enquiries.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: As regards payment of compensation in any form, either as compensation or as relief to those people who suffered losses at the time of the Japanese occupation, that question has also been before the Government for a long time. A decision on that question need not depend on the receipt of the report of the Chief Commissioner. I want to know whether that matter has been considered by the Government or not.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That matter is under consideration but no decision has been arrived at.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has the Government fixed any time limit within which they should be given representative form of Government?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It depends upon the circumstances existing there. No such time limit can be laid down.

THROWING OF A BOMB AT A POLICE STATION IN DELHI

*694. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were arrested in connection with the throwing of a bomb at a police station in Delhi in June last year;

(b) whether any of those persons was prosecuted; and

(c) if so, what is the result of the prosecution?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) Three.

(b) Two of the three are being prosecuted. The case of the third is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether any policemen were injured in that incident?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There were minor injuries caused to five policemen who were moving about.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know under what circumstances this hand-grenade was thrown? Were they going on with the investigation of some other case and were the accused connected with that case?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is a matter which is under consideration. This incident occurred on 2nd June at about 4.30 A.M. and a similar incident also occurred about ten days thereafter and therefore the Government are considering whether there are serious ramifications behind these offences or whether they are merely stray offences.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Was there any political party connected with the bomb-throwing affair?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That itself is under consideration.

DISPUTE IN MILITARY UNITS IN BOMBAY

*695. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dispute has arisen between the employees of the Yard Craft Service and 896 Water Transport Company Engineers and the Indian Naval Dockyard authorities in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation from the employees of the above mentioned units in this connection;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the issues raised in the representation; and

(d) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government on that representation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Council.

Statement

The Bombay Water Workers Union, Bombay, which is composed of Yard Craft personnel of the Indian Naval Dockyard, Bombay (a Navy Unit), and civilian employees of 896 Water