

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): Number of dacoities during the period from March 1953 to November 1953 (during President's administration)—6.

Number of dacoities during the corresponding period in 1952—69.

CENSUS FIGURES ABOUT THE BLIND PEOPLE OF INDIA

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

(a) whether in the 1951 census the figures about the blind people in India were collected; if not, why; and

(b) whether Government have any machinery to find out whether the number of blind persons in India is on the increase or on the decrease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) No. The population figures of blind persons were last available in the 1931 census. The data was found to be inaccurate and no count was, therefore, taken in the 1941 as well as the 1951 censuses.

(b) No.

RECRUITMENT OF SOLDIERS BY LOCAL COMMANDERS

295. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether local military commanders are entrusted with the work of recruitment of soldiers for—

(i) the regular army; and (ii) the territorial army; and

(b) whether these commanders are entrusted with this work as members of any committees for the recruitment of soldiers; and if so, what are those committees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SPECIAL CONCESSION TO ASSESSEES IN SOME PART B STATES

296. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special concession is shown to assessees in some Part B States under paragraph 6 of Part B States (Taxation Concessions) Order, 1950;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for differentiation between one Part B State and another Part B State; and

(c) what is the estimated loss to the Central Government as a result of this concession to some of the Part B States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) In the case of Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat, income of the previous year relevant to the assessment year 1950-51 arising before the first date of April 1949 is not charged to tax, although it is included in the total income for rate purposes.

(b) The above provision in relation to Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat does not give rise to any differentiation between these two States and other Part B States. While Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat had no state law for the imposition of income-tax, other Part B States had such laws under which income arising in these States before the 1st day of April 1949 was anyway chargeable, even if there had been no integration.

(c) This figure is not available at present and it may take considerable time to obtain it.

CELEBRATIONS ON THE FORMATION OF ANDHRA STATE

297. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state the amount spent by the Central Government for the purpose of celebrations on the occasion of (i) the formation of Andhra State and (ii) the integration of the seven *taluks* of Bellary in the State of Mysore?