

Income-tax; then there are five Appellate Assistant Commissioners; then there are two Inspecting Assistant Commissioners and there are 43 Income-tax Officers.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, may I know whether there is any Income-tax Officer in the Settled Offices?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I do not follow the question. I haven't got those figures but I have got the figures about the Income-tax Officers.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The hon. Minister said that in the year 1952-53 30 Income-tax Officers were transferred and the total number of officers available there is 43. Is that so?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Thirteen; not thirty.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, as to what was the duration of these people who were transferred—in service in Bihar and Orissa?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Ordinarily, as I have stated, the transfers are made in the interest of the public service except in cases where they are made on the officers' own requests. Otherwise their transfers are made ordinarily after three years' service at a particular place.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, what is the total demand of income-tax made during the year 1952-53?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question. Mr. Sundarayya.

BUDGETS OF LOCAL BODIES IN PEPSU

*40. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the budgets of the various local bodies in PEPSU have been or were pending with the Government for a long time; and

(b) if so, which are the budgets so pending and why?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) and (b). The budgets of only two Municipalities have been pending with the Government, viz., those of Patiala and Safidon. In the case of Patiala the apparent delay is due to the supersession of the Municipality before the budget estimates could be scrutinized. Safidon Municipality's budget showed a deficit of about Rs. 25,000 and the Deputy Commissioner has been asked to re-examine it. It will be finalised on receipt of the Deputy Commissioner's recommendations.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: When was the budget of Patiala Municipality submitted? Was it before supersession or after it?

DR. K. N. KATJU: The Patiala budget was received by the Government on the 6th of March 1953. The question of supersession was then under consideration and the Municipal Committee was superseded on the 13th of June 1953.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: How is it that the Government could not go into the budget and sanction it when there was a three months' interval?

DR. K. N. KATJU: This was one of the matters which was engaging the attention of the Government and the hon. Member knows that when the Adviser went there in the month of March, many many important matters were there, for example, the law and order situation, etc.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it also in continuation of the Government's policy not to sanction these budgets as it is not passing even the agrarian legislation that has come before it?

DR. K. N. KATJU: No.
(Interruption.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask about the municipalities.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: He said "law and order, etc. etc."

SHRI B. RATH: Sir, municipalities have nothing to do with the law and order of the hon. the Home Minister. He is going out of his way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The budget was presented in March; the Municipality was superseded in June; in the interval a gentleman was sent to advise the Government and he was worried about law and order.

DR. K. N. KATJU: Law and order, agrarian situation and everything else.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I ask the hon. Minister whether the municipal servants were paid their salaries from April to June as the budget was not passed?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I hope so, Sir. But I should like to make an accurate enquiry about this matter.

REDUCTION OF DISTRICTS IN PEPSU

*41. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government contemplate reducing the number of districts in PEPSU for administrative convenience; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme and when this scheme is likely to be brought into force?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: How is it that yesterday in the papers.....

DR. K. N. KATJU: I am not responsible for the papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government do not contemplate a reduction of the number of districts. That is what he says.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is it after the reduction in the number of districts that has already been effected that the Government do not contemplate any further reduction or does the answer relate to the number of districts that existed when the Adviser went to PEPSU?

DR. K. N. KATJU: There are today 8 districts on paper. These eight districts will continue.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Are the Government aware of an order issued by the Government reducing three districts of PEPSU, Mahendragarh, Barnala and Kandaghat, to the status of tehsils?

DR. K. N. KATJU: My hon. friend's knowledge of geography is rather imperfect. Most of the orders were passed.....

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: My knowledge of geography is far better than that of the Home Minister and that is why I am asking the question.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a report in the press to the effect that there has been a reduction in the number of districts.

DR. K. N. KATJU: I have said that there will be no reduction in the number of districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question was whether your attention has been drawn to the report in the press saying that there is a possibility of.....

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: No possibility; alleging that a reduction has been effected.

DR. K. N. KATJU: I am not responsible for what appears in the press.