

(a) the number of District, General and Summary Court Martials which had taken place in the three wings of the Armed Forces each year during the past four years; and

(b) how many of the cases tried by them related to corruption, theft, misuse of Government property, illegal sale of arms and ammunition and other such instances of defalcations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) and (b). Two statements are placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure Nos. 91 and 92.]

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In the statement supplied I find that in the year "1948-49 the number of people tried by the General Courts Martial were 92 and by District Courts Martial, 78, whereas in the details given in the second sheet I find that the total number tried by General Courts Martial is 32 and by the District Courts Martial is 31. May I know what happened to the rest?

AN HON. MEMBER: Discharged.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The second statement which the hon. Member must have read carefully shows the number of persons tried and convicted whereas the first was for the number who were court-martialled but not necessarily convicted.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I therefore take it that the rest of them have not been convicted or that they have been set free? Which of the two?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Obviously it is correct that the others have not been convicted.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How many of them have been set free?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member wants to know—Have they been acquitted or are they still under trial?

A.

"SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Speaking subject to correction, I mean only for the year 1948-49, no one would be under trial, and those not convicted must have been released.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the fact? What exactly is the fact—not assumptions?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The fact is—'those not convicted have been released.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Has the hon. Minister got the information with him?

(No reply.)

HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

*358. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: (On behalf of DR. R. B. GOUR): Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions were made at the last session of the Historical Records Commission that the secret files of the Government of India relating to the period of British administration in India should be thrown open for research;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the suggestions; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it not a fact that even secret files of the Government of India were made available upto a certain date?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, at present bona fide research students are allowed access to confidential as well as non-confidential records in the custody of the National Archives of

India up to 1901 only. The records of the period after 1901 can be consulted only with the previous permission of the Ministries concerned.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know in what year was the decision to allow records up to 1901 taken?

SHRI K. D. MALAVTYA: This is an old rule. And to the query made by the hon. Questioner, there was a certain resolution passed by the Indian History Congress recommending access to records as far as 1946. That suggestion of theirs was circulated to State Governments for opinion, but in a way, it is being implemented even *tiow*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

3 P.M.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

I. THE HYDERABAD COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY (MISCELLANEOUS ROVISIONS) BILL, 1953.

II. THE APPROPRIATION (No. 3) BILL, 1953.

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the Council the following messages received from the House of the People signed by the Secretary to the House:

I

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 148 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I am directed to inform you that the House of the People at its sitting held on the 31st March, 1953, agreed without any amendment to the Hyderabad Coinage and Paper Currency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1953 which was passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 28th March, 1953."

II

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1953 which has been passed by the House at its sitting held on the 8th April, 1953.

The Speaker has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill on the Table.

NOMINATION TO THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have" some announcements to make. The following three Members of the Council of States have been nominated to be Members of the Library Committee in consultation with the Speaker:

1. Shri H. N. Kunzru.
2. Prof. R. D. Sinha Dinkar.
3. Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI OSMAN SOBHANI

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Osman Sobhani:

"As I am taking my son who is a deaf-mute to England for treatment and education, I beg to apply for permission to be absent from the Council for the rest of the present Session.¹"

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Osman Sobhani for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council from the 9th April 1953 till the end of the current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.