

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 25th February 1953

The Council met at two of the clock in the afternoon, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FORMATION OF A NEW STATE

*101. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state "whether Government are considering any proposal to form a new State comprising of Tripura, Manipur and certain other areas?

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

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether the Government is aware that an impression has been created in that part of the country that the visits of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Commander-in-Chief were for this purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer given by the Home Minister today will remove that impression.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is Manipur a ■viable unit?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I do not know really: the question of viability is a question of temperament—a question of opinion.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Viable is a term given out by the States Ministry.

CRIMINAL TRIBES WELFARE BOARD

*102. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Criminal Tribes Welfare Board; and
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(b) if so, who are the members of this Board and what has been the nature of their activities so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the Criminal Tribes Welfare Board to which he is referring is a private body started by the Servants of the People Society.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: No, Sir. Was there a Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Criminal Tribes Act?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: No such committee has been appointed. But an informal committee met some time ago to see in what way the e.r-criminal tribes can be rehabilitated; and a bigger conference is going to be called next month.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I refer the hon. Minister to page 10 of the Home Ministry's report, paragraph 30. where it is stated that the Criminal Tribes Enquiry Committee inquired into the matter and submitted a report in the beginning of November 1950?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes, that was the original report, and on the strength of that report certain action was taken in the first instance by way of repealing the Criminal Tribes Act.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Has a Bill to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act been brought up before Parliament?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It was repealed by Parliament in 1952.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In view of the recommendations made by the Criminal Tribes Enquiry Committee, has any loan been advanced to any of the tribes in Delhi?