

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 ex-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?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes; some amount has already been advanced, and there is a claim made by this body, the Servants of the People Society, to give them Rs. 25 lakhs, and that matter is under consideration.

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT: Does the Government know that certain State Governments are bringing new legislation to introduce the old Criminal Tribes Act in another form—like the one which is before the Rajasthan Assembly?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: My hon. friend is possibly under a misapprehension. What is being done is this. We have got and we are going to have in certain States what is known as the Habitual Offenders Act. That has nothing to do with the principles of the Criminal Tribes Act.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will this Habitual Offenders Act be applicable to the criminal tribes?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Provided they are habitual offenders.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Are there any sections of Indian population still to be called "criminal tribes"?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There are no tribes now known as criminal tribes. They are referred to as *ex-criminal* tribes for purposes of rehabilitation.

AGE RELAXATION FOR GOVERNMENT • APPOINTMENTS

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

(a) whether there were any instances in 1952 of appointments having been made to the Central Government service after relaxing the minimum age-limits prescribed for candidates;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the

reasons for such appointments, and how many such appointments were made; and

(c) what scale of pay and service conditions were offered in the case of each of those appointments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a), (b) and (c). Prescribed lower age-limits are not usually relaxed except in very special cases. Upper age-limits may be relaxed in the following two broad categories of cases:—

(i) General relaxation covering specified classes, *e.g.*, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, displaced Government servants, displaced persons and retrenched personnel.

(ii) Relaxation on individual merits, *i.e.*, on the basis of hardship or long experience.

Information showing in what cases of category (i) age-limits were relaxed during the year 1952 is not readily available. The time and labour involved in collecting such information would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

Information in respect of cases of category (ii) is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know if this relaxation has ever been made in the case of *ex-army* or armed forces personnel?

SHRI B. N. DATAR. I should like to have notice.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Were there any further conditions waived by Government with regard to displaced persons in consultation with the Public Service Commission?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes, special conditions have been laid down and special concessions given especially in the case of displaced Government servants.