

satisfactory. The first question you have answered correctly, whether Shri Kalachand Singha was an undertrial political prisoner. You have answered that he was not a political prisoner. When a political prisoner commits a crime, he goes to the other side. That is quite true. It was a kidnapping case. The next question is whether it is a fact that the prisoner repeatedly applied for trial. Your answer is, "No". He never applied for trial. The next question was how long was he kept an undertrial prisoner without being tried? You say you want notice.

DR. K. N. KATJU: That is what I said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You also said in reply to the other question that his relatives were informed of his death and that they performed his funeral under the leadership of pleader Inderjit Singh. Therefore the only question is about the period for which he was an undertrial. This information is not in the possession of the hon. Minister at the present moment.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Does an undertrial prisoner ask for trial or is it the duty of the jail people themselves to send him for trial?

MR. CHAIRMAN: These **are** all questions relating to undertrials.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: If it is the duty of the police themselves, why make capital out of the fact that he applied for trial?

RELIEF WORK IN THE STATE OF TRIPURA

*250. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Tripura refused to accept the co-operation of Tripura Ganatantrik Samiti in the work of refugee relief and the starting of schools and industrial centres; if so, why?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N.

KATJU): Work relating to rehabilitation of displaced persons in Tripura is done departmentally and the question of refusing the co-operation of the Ganatantrik Samiti does not therefore arise.

SHRI B. RATH: What is the total number of refugees in Tripura?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: About 1,75,000.

SHRI B. RATH: What is the total number of officers that are entrusted with relief work there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

SHRI B. RATH: It is relevant because the question arises as to what is the proportion of officers to the refugees?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is whether it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Tripura refused to accept the co-operation of Tripura Ganatantrik Samiti in the work of refugee relief. The answer is that the work is done departmentally. So, no co-operation is sought. Do you want them to seek co-operation?

SHRI B. RATH: I want to know the efficiency with which the Department is being run.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the question raised.

DEATH IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS

*251. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths that took place in the Amtali and Arundhuti Nagar Refugee Camps (Tripura State) in the months of November and December 1952;

(b) what were the causes of these deaths; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent such deaths?

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Am-tali Camp—24; Arundhuti Nagar Camp—25.

(b) Diseases like dysentery, malaria, ascites etc., and old age, debility.

(c) The camps have been properly disinfected and fully equipped with dispensaries affording indoor treatment under qualified staff. Arrangements for drinking water have been made from tube-wells. Displaced persons have been vaccinated and inoculated against typhoid. They are being shifted to rehabilitation centres.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: The Minister said malaria, etc. May I know what that etcetera means?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other diseases which produce death.

SHRI B. RATH: May I know what is the total number of deaths in these camps from old age?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is old age? When does it start?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Five.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How many died from malaria?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: One.

TEACHING OF HINDI IN THE UNIVERSITIES

*252. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference under the Ministry of Education was held in Delhi to consider the question of teaching Hindi in the various universities; and

(b) if so, (i) what was the agenda of the Conference; (ii) the persons who attended the conference; and (iii) what decisions were taken thereat?

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

(b) (i) and (ii). The agenda of the Conference and the names of participants are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 82.]

(iii) The Conference made certain recommendations which will be considered by Government of India after the Central Advisory Board of Education have considered them.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it a fact that the Conference decided unanimously that the study of Hindi should be made optional and not compulsory?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not know, Sir. But so far as secondary schools are concerned, one of their recommendations was that it should be a compulsory subject.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: When I asked him whether it is a fact that the Conference unanimously decided that the study of Hindi should be made optional in the universities, the hon. Minister says that he does not know, but then he says that one of the recommendations is that it should be made compulsory in secondary schools. I cannot understand his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question was a general question to which he replied that he does not know. But then he made a specific answer in regard to secondary schools.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not know about the universities, but about secondary schools I said that one of their recommendations was that it should be made compulsory.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What is their recommendation with regard to colleges?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I require notice to answer that.