

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 81.]

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What are the ex-servicemen's associations whose representatives are on the Boards?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Well, Sir, the position is as explained in the statement which is quite exhaustive. Only those associations which are representative, find their places, but they are nominated.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is true. But here the statement says that in very few States the ex-servicemen's associations enjoy popular support. What are those few States where the ex-servicemen's associations enjoy popular support and their representatives are members on these Boards?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I am afraid I haven't got that information with me but I will certainly pass it on to the hon. Member when I get it.

DEATH OF AN UNDER-TRIAL PRISONER IN THE TRIPURA STATE

*249. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Shri Kalachand Singha, an under-trial political prisoner in Tripura State, died recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prisoner repeatedly applied for trial but was not sent up for trial;

(c) whether it is a fact that the relatives of the prisoner were not informed of his serious illness;

(d) whether it is a fact that his request to see his relatives during illness was not acceded to;

(e) whether it is a fact that on the day of his death, the prisoner was sent to the house of his pleader and

that Government did not inform his relatives about his death; and

(f) if the replies to parts (b) to (e) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take against the officials who failed to discharge their duties in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) Shri Kalachand Singha an undertrial died in Kailasahar Hospital on the 5th December 1952. He was not a political prisoner but an accused in a kidnapping case.

(b) No.

(c) No. His relatives were informed of his illness.

(d) No. His relatives were allowed to see him while he was sick, both in *hajat* and in the hospital.

(e) No. His relatives were informed of his death and they performed his funeral under the leadership of pleader Inderjit Singh.

(f) Does not arise.

SHRI B. RATH: May I know when Shri Kalachand Singha was arrested?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I do not know.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that he was kept in jail for a period of about three years?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I want notice.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that he suffered for a long period in the jail as an undertrial?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I can only answer questions relating to his death, nothing else. If any other question is put, I want notice.

SHRI B. RATH: I submit, Sir, that he was an undertrial prisoner for a period of three years and when he was in jail, he became ill and he died. So all these questions arise out of that fact.

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA: The hon. Minister has said that he was not a political prisoner but an accused in a kidnapping case. Was he convicted under that charge?

DR K. N. KATJU: I want notice.

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA: I protest very strongly at the way in which replies are being given for every question here.

DR. K N KATJU: He died as an undertrial. Therefore no question of conviction can arise. My hon. friends put questions only for nothing.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY. Sir, I would invite the hon Minister's attention—his most generous attention—to part (b) of the question where it is said:

“Whether it is a fact that the prisoner repeatedly applied for trial but was not sent up for trial.”

Surely, while answering the question he ought to have collected this information. There is no use of Question Hour at all if this is the manner in which replies are given. Every time it is said, “The question does not arise” or “The information is not there”.

DR. K. N. KATJU: The answer is, “No”.

MR CHAIRMAN: The answer says “No” He never applied for trial.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Arising out of that, we want to know how long he was an undertrial. Surely the hon. Minister ought to have collected that information before he ventured to reply this question.

DR. K. N. KATJU: I have got no more information except in the negative.

SHRI B RATH: May I know whether this undertrial prisoner died inside the jail or outside the jail?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He must have died in the hospital, my dear friend.

SHRI B. RATH: That is the wrong information.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the hospital inside the jail or outside the jail?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wherever it may be

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What was the cause of his death?

DR. K. N. KATJU. The cause of his death was chronic malaria.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chronic malaria sometimes kills a man

SHRI B. RATH. For how many months did he suffer from that chronic malaria?

MR CHAIRMAN: He hasn't got that information.

SHRI C. G. K REDDY: I would appeal to you, Sir, that this is an important question. I am not interested in this question but it is an important question and the hon. Minister is trying to confirm the suspicion that there is something wrong with the whole matter

DR K. N. KATJU: I have given the information that I possessed, and if my hon friends want any further information, I want notice.

SHRI B. RATH: Sir, our supplementaries arise from the information that is given.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, we seek your protection.

SHRI K. B. LALL: May I know whether in view of the nature of the question the hon. Minister thinks that an enquiry should be held so that the people may be satisfied?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a sort of feeling that the answers are no

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?