

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 14th April 1953.

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock in the morning, MR. (CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI HANS RAJ (Punjab) (Affirmation in English).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOCAL FINANCE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*374. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government of India for the implementation by the State Governments of the recommendations of the Local Finance Enquiry Committee; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government on those recommendations of the said Committee which are the concern of the Central Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR "HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) The Local Finance Enquiry Committee made as many as 149 recommendations and on practically all these recommendations action has to be taken "by the State Governments as Local Self Government is a subject in the State list of the Constitution. The Report of the Committee was circulated to the State Governments for consideration and necessary action. Most of the Governments have replied to the effect that the matter is under consideration while some of the Governments have accepted some recommendations and rejected others. Local circumstances differ and therefore action is likely to vary from State to State. Those State Governments which have not yet taken action are being reminded to do so from time to time.

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(b) As far as the Central Government are concerned, the main recommendations are that the terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by railways, sea or air which are new in the Central list of the Constitution should be transferred to the State list and that while Central Government property may continue to be immune from Local taxation, Government should make a contribution to Local Bodies in lieu of such taxes. As far as these terminal taxes are concerned under article 269 of the Constitution the taxes will be levied and collected by the Central Government but assigned to the States. It is not considered necessary to alter this position. The question of Central legislation to take power for the levy of such taxes is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

Regarding the payment of contribution by the Central Government to Local Bodies in lieu of taxes certain particulars are being collected from State Governments and Ministries concerned and it will take some time before a decision is reached.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When did this Committee submit its report to Government?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: It was submitted in 1951.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was it not submitted on 23rd December 1950?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: It was submitted in 1950 but it was received from the press in 1951.

ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTERS

*375. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Indian Assistant Harbour Masters recruited by the Calcutta Port Commissioners for the Calcutta Port in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 with the approval of the Government of India; and

(b) the countries from which they were recruited?