

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what action have Government taken on that representation ?

(c) Do Government propose to set up municipal administration in the Andaman Islands ? If so, when ?

(Answer held over.)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

*166. PROF. G. RANGA : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) which tribes and castes approached Government for being included in the Schedules to the Orders made by the President under the Constitution specifying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since the said Orders were notified by the President ; and

(b) what action Government have taken on those requests ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 42.]

(b) It has been decided not to amend these Orders till the matter has been investigated by the Backward Classes Commission. A detailed memorandum setting out the considerations on the basis of which the Orders were issued is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 43.]

SURVEY OF MINERALS

41. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Himachal Pradesh is very rich in minerals and possesses rare natural resources ;

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(b) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out what minerals are available in those areas ; if so, with what results ; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to take any steps in this direction ?

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD : (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 44.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI-MATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have a representation from Shrimati Maya Devi Chetty saying :

"I beg to inform you that I was expecting to leave Kurseong by the 1st December latest, but according to the advice of the doctor, I could not do so. I, therefore, pray Your Honour to kindly grant me leave of absence for this session."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted.

MOTIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

THE CENTRAL SILK BOARD

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 1952, this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve on the Central Silk Board."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 1952, this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve on the Central Silk Board.

The motion was adopted.