

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : No, Sir. It has no relation to that.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Shall we have a definition of the scope of 'public interest' and its whole boundary ? In this way, it is easy to withhold any information that the Government pleases from this House.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It is only in connection with part (b) of the question which reads, "What are the names of the companies from whom such supplies are obtained and the countries to which they belong ?" that I withheld the information in public interest. I would respectfully submit, Sir, that no Government in the world can afford to disclose the names of the suppliers of its warlike stores, especially when the country is not self-sufficient and is importing them from foreign lands.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has our Air Force become a dumping ground for the salvaged parts of Hawkers Ltd. ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

PREPARATION OF CALENDAR

*162. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any action to evolve and introduce a uniform and co-ordinated Indian calendar for the use of all people in India ;

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative :—

(i) whether the task has been entrusted to anyone ; if so, to whom ; and

(ii) what instructions, if any have been issued to those persons as regards the basic essentials to be followed in determining the final framework of any such uniform and co-ordinated Indian calendar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : What is the reply, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : "(a) No, Sir ; (b) Does not arise."

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Why not, Sir ?

CUT IN SALARIES

*163. SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Government have requested the Government of India's permission for imposing a cut in the salaries of the Central Government officials working in that State, to bring them in line with the cut in the salaries of the State Government officials ;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter ; and

(c) what savings would result from this cut ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to officers of the All India Services, who are now serving in connection with the affairs of the State and who are being controlled and paid by the Madras Government. That Government have requested the concurrence and the assistance of the Government of India for the imposition of a 10% cut in the salaries of such officers.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Information on this point is being sought from the State Government and will have a material bearing on the consideration of the proposal.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know from the hon. Minister the number of officers who draw salaries above Rs. 500, and those who draw between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I have no figures at this stage.

SHRI B. GUPTA : With regard to question (a) may I know what is the reaction of the Government of India ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I cannot state the reaction until the Government have come to a decision.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How long will the Government of India take to come to a decision ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : We will take a decision as early as possible, because the Government of Madras propose to introduce this cut from the 1st January, 1953.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Not even a reaction yet ?

INDIAN NAVY BAND

*164. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the Indian Navy Band can be obtained for use by the public ? If so, on what terms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : The Band Committee, of which the Commodore-in-Charge, Bombay, is the President, has discretion to allow the Band to accept private engagements or to play at entertainments given by private individuals or public bodies such as Municipalities, sports clubs, etc. The Band, however, is in no circumstances, whether in or out of uniform permitted to take part in processions, communal or otherwise, religious ceremonies and political demonstrations.

When requests to perform for a fee are entertained, the terms accepted are not less than those which would, in similar circumstances, be offered to civilian bands. The fees received are used largely for the Band's maintenance.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Is the Government aware that the Navy Band was played in front of the Metro Theatre in Bombay to celebrate the premiere of the picture "Quo Vadis" ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : That is a fact.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Was the Band requisitioned by the proprietors of the theatre or by the U. S. Embassy here ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know how the U. S. Embassy is concerned in this matter. The proprietors of the theatre invited our Military and Naval officers to this show and asked them to lend the services of the Band for their entertainment. The Band played in the interval and before the show.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister enquire whether the American Embassy had anything to do with this ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have no knowledge. I do not think they had anything to do with it.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does not the Government feel that it is below the dignity of the State to allow the Indian Navy Band to play in front of theatres to celebrate such premieres ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have already said that the show was witnessed by officers of the Armed Forces and the Band was played for their entertainment. As a matter of fact, this is not a Government Band. All the equipment of the Band is purchased from subscriptions, raised by the ratings and officers. There is a Band Committee. There are certain prescribed rules and regulations. The Band is not allowed to take part in