

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 17th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SET-UP OF MUNICIPALITY IN ANDAMAN ISLANDS

*157. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : (a) Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation for the setting up of municipal administration in the Andaman Islands ?

(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 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Is it a fact that a representation has been received from the associations in Andamans requesting the setting up of municipal administration ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I could not catch the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it a fact that representation has been received from the people in Andamans requesting the setting up of municipal administration ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Yes. Representation has been made and the matter is under active consideration. We are awaiting the report of the Chief Commissioner in this respect.

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SHRI H. C. MATHUR : May I know whether the hon. Minister has visited the Andamans and if not, does he propose to do so to get first-hand information ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you visited the Andamans ?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Before attainment of freedom ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : Yes, I propose to do so, as soon as possible.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : I expected it.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : How long will this consideration by the Government take ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : It will not take long. In the next two or three months the question will be settled.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES

*270. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of ordnance factories in India ;

(b) what are the posts of officers in these factories which are held at present by (i) Englishmen, and (ii) Indians ;

(c) what are the salaries of the various English and Indian officers in these factories ;

(d) whether any English officers have been retained in service after they have passed the age of retirement ; if so, how many and for what reasons ; and

(e) what are the terms of service of these English officers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) Twenty.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 77.]

(d) One. A suitable and experienced Indian officer is not available at present to replace him.

(e) The terms of service for Indian and non-Indian officers are uniform except that non-Indians receive an overseas allowance of £ 25 to £ 30 p.m.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : The hon. Minister said that at present a suitable and experienced

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The hon. Member is not audible, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : The hon. Minister said that one English officer who is overaged is kept on because no suitable Indian is available. May I know from the table that he has provided here, to which category this officer belongs ? There are so many categories here and so I am not able to find this out from the table given.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The one officer who has been retained after attaining the age of retirement is the Deputy Director General of Ordnance Factories. He has been in the Government of India's service for a very long time in a highly technical post. He is being retained for a further period of three years.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : May I know when the Director General of Ordnance Factories is an Indian and there are six Assistant Directors General of Ordnance Factories, why Government should think that no suitable Indian is available for this post of Deputy Director General of Ordnance Factories ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, that is a matter of argument. The Government of India after thoroughly considering all these aspects have thought it necessary to keep this officer for some time more.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : For how long is it proposed to keep this officer ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : As I have said, the extension has been given for a period of three years.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How long does the Government propose to keep these 42 non-Indian officers in the ordnance depots ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : They are being gradually replaced. Their number has come down considerably, and as and when our officers are trained, and are able to take these jobs, they will be replaced.

DISMANTLING OF A PLANT IN AN ORDNANCE FACTORY

*271. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chamber process sulphuric acid plant in an ordnance factory has been dismantled and condemned ;

(b) if so, what was the reason for dismantling the plant and whether experts were consulted before dismantling it ;

(c) whether Government were satisfied that this plant could no longer be used ;

(d) whether any plant has been imported to replace the plant so condemned ; if so, from where it has been imported, and at what cost ; and

(e) whether any foreign expert has been requested to work on the new plant ; if so, (i) who is that expert, (ii) what is his salary, and (iii) what are his qualifications ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant was dismantled because of certain inherent disadvantages and difficulties in its working, and the necessity of a more modern