

Government that the shifting of a Bench of the High Court would not fall under item 3 of List II?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know whether this Government is aware of a certain enactment, Act 1 of the year 1951, passed by the Legislative Assembly of Travancore-Cochin?

DR. K. N. KATJU : I take it from my hon. friend.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR : What action has been taken to introduce suitable legislation for this purpose?

DR. K. N. KATJU : I have replied that the matter is under consideration.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR : Have the Government of Travancore-Cochin urged that this matter is very urgent?

DR. K. N. KATJU : That is right.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know why, if this enactment Act 1 of 1951 was within the power of the Legislative Assembly of Travancore-Cochin, the President's sanction was needed?

DR. K. N. KATJU : I really must have notice of all these questions.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Is there any other demand on the part of the High Courts in any other place?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing like Travancore-Cochin.

GRANT OF FUNDS

*282. SHRI L. H. DOSHI : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state whether the Government of any State have requested the Central Government for funds for meeting the famine and scarcity conditions prevailing in some parts of that State, if so,—

(i) which are those States ;

(ii) what are the amounts asked for in each case ; and

(iii) what action have Government taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) : Yes, Sir. A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 79.]

SHRI L. H. DOSHI : What is the extent of the scarcity in the Bombay State?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : In certain parts of Maharashtra, certain taluks have been declared to be scarcity areas. Certain parts of Karnataka also are affected.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : May I know how many villages have been declared scarcity areas in Maharashtra?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I have not got that information. That information can be obtained from the Minister for Food and Agriculture.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : May I know whether any districts of Madhya Bharat have been declared famine areas?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I have not got that information. That information can be had from the Minister for Food and Agriculture.

EXPENDITURE ON RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

*283. SHRI S. MAHANTY : Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent out of the Central Exchequer in connection with the recent Buddhist celebrations at Sanchi ; and

(b) what amount was spent out of the Central Exchequer in connection

with the Sillaropan ceremony of the Somnath Temple in Saurashtra?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) Rs. 25,000.

(b) No amount was spent from Government revenues for this purpose.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, arising out of the answer to (b), why is this discrimination made in respect of the Somnath Temple of hallowed memory?

DR. K. N. KATJU : So far as Somnath was concerned, I am only speculating.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No speculation.

DR. K. N. KATJU : In the case of Somnath, no financial support was found necessary, because enough public subscription had been raised. So far as this Sanchi ceremony was concerned, it had a wider importance. It had attracted a great international attention and therefore it was considered desirable that the Central Government as well as the State Government should spend something over it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, the merit of the question is not being discussed here. What I want is information. There is no gainsaying the fact that it had great international significance, but is it a fact that the Saurashtra Government had asked for some help from the Centre for the ceremony at the Somnath Temple?

DR. K. N. KATJU : I want to have notice of that. I do not know really.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : How long a notice would the Minister want to give this answer?

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, for almost every question the Ministers say that they want notice. If every supplementary question requires notice,

then there is no need to have supplementaries. Let us have our rules changed.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Will the hon. Minister please say how this expenditure on a Buddhist religious celebration is in conformity with the secular character of our State?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a large question of policy.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : I want information.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Is it the policy of the Government to spend money from the public exchequer for religious purposes?"

DR. K. N. KATJU : This was not a religious purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His question is, "Is it the policy of the Government to spend money from the public exchequer on religious purposes?"

DR. K. N. KATJU : It is not the policy of the Government to spend any public money on religious purposes, but this ceremony at Sanchi stood on a pedestal of its own. It had attracted a large number of foreigners or guests from outside countries who had to be entertained, arrangements for their accommodation made, etc. and that is why public expenditure was incurred on this occasion.

SHRI B. RATH : Since the State is secular, is it permitted on the part of the Government to do so?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Does it mean that simply because a large number of people had come from outside Government can spend money out of the public exchequer?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This had a different significance.

DR. K. N. KATJU : With all respects to you and the hon. Members I find that there is a tendency to turn every question into a debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, we are proceeding.

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT : There is the Chairman. You need not advise.

INDIAN STATES FORCES

*284. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from individuals or the Hyderabad Government for the quick and proper settlement of the release claims of the personnel of the Indian State Forces of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the nature of these representations and the action taken on them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the claims of some of the released personnel are being settled at rates and terms lower than those they are entitled to under the terms of their employment in the Hyderabad State Forces ; if so, why ?

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

(b) The Government of Hyderabad suggested that an ex-Officer of Hyderabad State Forces should be attached to Ministry of Defence to help in finalizing outstanding cases. This was carefully considered but was not agreed to as the number of cases now outstanding is very small. A number of representations have also been received from individuals and these are generally against the interpretation placed on Hyderabad State Pension Rules by audit authorities which the individuals interpret to their own advantage. Decisions have already been given on some of these points in conformity with the letter and spirit of the rules. Some such points are still under examination.

(c) No.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Is it a fact that the case of a Major in which the

Accountant General of Hyderabad had indicated at what terms his release claims should be settled was still delayed for a number of years by the Defence Accounts ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I don't know about every individual case. I cannot carry it in my head.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Is it a fact that certain Firmans of the Nizam confirming certain ranks of Military personnel have not been recognized by the Defence Accounts ? If not, why not ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : This question is about the representations from the people affected, to the Government of India and not on any Firmans issued by the Nizam.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : May I explain ? The integration took place in April 1950 as the Minister said. At that time orders were passed that the military that was in the Indian State Forces would be governed by the rules then existing at the time and not by the rules promulgated by the Government of India. That is why this question has been asked.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : That is true. All the pension and gratuity cases of the State Forces of Hyderabad are being decided according to the Hyderabad Pension and Gratuity Rules.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : May I know whether it is the policy of this Government to give lands to big military officers such as Captains etc. in preference to poor landless cultivators or tenants ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

INDIAN STATES FORCES

*285. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any machinery to dispose of