

SHRI K. N. KATJU : Are you asking something about 1948 ?

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO : Yes.

SHRI K. N. KATJU : Have some mercy on me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point here is about the General Elections and so far as the General Elections are concerned, he has said no such instructions were issued.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO : The point I wanted to make was that a circular was issued by the Central Government at the time of the Orissa States people's movement empowering the Orissa Government about censoring correspondence and that that circular has not yet been withdrawn.

SHRI K. N. KATJU : I suggest that this question may be asked in Orissa in the Orissa State Assembly. That would be much better.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether censorship still continues under the auspices of the Government of India over certain individuals or organisations ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This relates to the general question of censorship and the present question relates only to General Elections.

POPULATION IN INDIA

*56. SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state :

(a) whether the population of India is on the increase year by year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control the same;

(c) whether Government have set up any birth control clinics to educate the people; and

(d) if so, in which States; and

(e) the number of such centres where such clinics have been set-up ?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) While Government are not unaware of the problem, it is not possible for them to initiate any country-wide scheme of control on a matter like this without a very careful study of all factors involved. One of the measures so far taken is to start three centres for conducting pilot studies on the possibilities of the " rhythm " method of family planning.

(c) to (e) Besides the experimental centres mentioned under clause (b) the Government of India have not set up any birth control clinic. A statement indicating the action taken in this matter in the various States by the State authorities or others is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, Annexure No. 44.]

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Are Government aware that most of the doctors in Government dispensaries are ignorant of the knowledge of birth control methods -and do not give advice when sought for by the public ?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : I do not think that is the case, Sir.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Is it not advisable to introduce courses of birth control methods in Medical Schools and Colleges ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an expression of opinion.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : Has opinion of well-known women's organisations been elicited on this subject; and, if so, what is it ?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : Some of the women's organisations have given their opinion. They are in favour of the use of mechanical contraceptives.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Are the Government aware of the fact that no Provincial or State Governments have opened clinics ?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : I have already shown the position in the statement which I have laid on the Table of the House.

No State Government has opened clinics and Government are aware of the fact.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Will the Central Government be pleased to direct Provincial or State Governments to open more and more clinics in view of the increasing population of the country ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Is it not a fact that the work of Planning Commission is greatly handicapped by the lack of family planning in the country ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : That again is a matter of opinion.

SHRI B. RATH : Isn't the Home Department helping the Government in reducing the population ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

BEGAM AIZAZ RASUL : May I know whether the Central Government is prepared to contribute any money to the Provincial Governments for this purpose ?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : No, Sir.

ISSUE OF SPECIAL POSTAL STAMPS

*57. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) how many times the Indian Postal authorities have issued special postal stamps from August 1947 to date;

(b) what was the net income to the Government on each of those occasions ; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any special postage

stamps in the near future; and, if so, when ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (6). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, Annexure 45.]

(c) Yes, on the occasion of the next Gandhi Jayanti.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know how many of these stamps were exported to foreign countries ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : It is difficult to say how many were exported; but quite a number of philatelists from foreign countries did buy these stamps from us.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know in what denominations the new stamps are proposed to be issued ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : The exact denominations have not been decided, but we will take a rational view.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are you having any national events described in a planned manner ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : They will be taken up for consideration later on> Sir.

PENSION RULES FOR I.A.S. OFFICERS

*58. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pension rules have been framed for I.A.S. officers;

(b) whether retired officers of this service have been drawing only provisional pensions; and

(c) if so, what measures Government contemplate to relieve the hardship from which they are suffering ?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI N. KATJU) : (a) Not yet.