

is so, I would like to have an assurance that such people would not be put on this board.

SHRI T. A. PAI: The question is about the development council of the paper industry and not in regard to newspapers. The hon. Member has been asking. . .

SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI: Sir, this is an irrelevant question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here is a long list. I have a little sense of relief because I cannot find known RSS. But I do hope that such men like the one I had mentioned, the ex-editor of an RSS journal, who has been going all over the world and who is proposed to be appointed as the editor of Samachar (Hindi), would not be put in there.

SHRI T. A. PAI: The hon. Member must address this question to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I am only concerned with the paper industry and not the newspaper industry. This is a development council in regard to the paper industry.

Running of illegal chit funds in Delhi

*512. **SHRI BEZAWADA PAPIREDDI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Sunday Standard' of 7th March, 1976 to the effect that a self-styled "seth", a Central Government employee, who was illegally organising, 'mohalla committees' (chit funds), was arrested in Delhi on the charges of misappropriating about Rs. 16 lakhs from chit funds floated by him;

(b) whether it is a fact that several such illegal and unregistered 'mohalla committees' are operating in various localities of Delhi and their organisers by manipulations are earning huge profits without paying any income-tax and in certain cases

these chit funds are being organised by the Central Government employees; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ban the running of such 'mohalla committees' (chit funds)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No other case of this nature has come to the notice of the Delhi Administration.

(c) The local police has been instructed to keep a strict watch to detect persons running such committees.

SHRI BEZAWADA PAPIREDDI: Sir, in popular parlance, this is known as 'cheat fund'. In recent years, there has been a mushroom growth of such chit funds in the metropolitan cities. As we see from the newspaper report, most of the victims are either the poor widows or the gullible Government servants. Therefore, my question is, what steps are proposed to be taken to see that these things do not recur again?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, this "seth" who was running the chit funds was arrested and we are prosecuting him in the court.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to how many such chit funds are being organised in Delhi and other metropolitan cities.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, the question is about Delhi only, and in Delhi 57 chit fund organisations are there.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: In view of the fact that chit fund organisers have become the worst menace in the financing areas, may I ask the hon. Minister as to how many chit fund organisers in the country are involved in cases of cheating and misappropriation, what

is the amount of involvement, how many cases arising out of such incidents have been pending in the courts till now, whether the police have gone into the matter and what action has been taken?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, the question is about Delhi only. In Delhi, the number of major chit fund organisations is 57; the number of prosecutions launched by the Registrar of Chit Funds under the Madras Chit Funds Act in 1975 was 292; the number of cases decided by the court by imposition of fine, etc. is 228 and the number of chit funds that have gone into liquidation is 10.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There are many chit fund organisations throughout the country, in different States, run by different individuals. In Gujarat, particularly in Anand, there is an organisation called Vijay Bond Agency. The Vijay Bond Agency cheated the people to the tune of crores of rupees. Is there any complaint against this Vijay Bond Agency?

SHRI OM MEHTA: I will have to find out because this is a specific question about a specific issue. We will have to find out from the Gujarat Government and if there are complaints, we will take action.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि दिल्ली में जितनी चिट फण्ड की संख्या मंत्री जी ने अभी सूचित की है उनकी कार्य विधि के बाबत क्या पुलिस की नजर गई है और उनकी अनियमितताओं को देखते हुए उनका सूक्ष्म निरीक्षण करने के बाद चिट फण्ड की जो प्रक्रिया सारे देश में है, उसको बन्द करने के सिद्धांत को स्वीकार करने में सरकार को क्या आपत्ति है ?

श्री ओम मेहता : सर, यहां पर उसके ऊपर नजर रखी जा रही है और पूरी कांशिश की जा रही है। दिल्ली प्रशासन को पहले ही कह दिया गया है कि वह यह देखे कि जब इतने प्रोसेक्यूशन के केसेज लोगों के खिलाफ हैं तो फिर क्यों न इसका रिव्यू किया जाय और चिट फण्ड को रोक़ा जाय। इसकी वीकंग को रैगुलेंट करने

के लिए सार- भारतवर्ष के लिए एक नया बिल लाने की बात सरकार सोच रही है।

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: May I know from the hon. Minister the steps which are taken to recover the money so misappropriated by the chit fund companies ?

SHRI OM MEHTA: If they are found guilty, a fine is imposed generally and it is for the court to recover the money.

Electrified Villages in Karnataka

*513. **SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the number of villages proposed to be electrified in Karnataka during the year 1976-77 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): The Karnataka State Electricity Board proposes to electrify 600 villages during 1976-77.

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN: How many villages in Karnataka have up till now been electrified and what is the number of villages without electricity ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : There are 26,826 villages in Karnataka. Out of them, 14,132 villages that is, 52.7 per cent had been electrified and the rest are yet to be electrified.

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN: How long will the Government take to electrify the remaining villages ? What is the plan ?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: We have not, till today, received any plan from the Karnataka Government to electrify all the villages.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I would like to know which is the State which has got the highest number of villages electrified and which is the State which has got the lowest number of villages electrified.