

out of office. In fact, he was thrown out of office as a result of such pressure. The Sirajuddin case was not the main thing. Having regard to all this experience within our country and what is happening outside, why should not Mr. Gokhale go into the question, not purely from the economic point of view or the business point of view but also from the point of view of the associations or links of these concerns with politicians, big business houses and all the rest in order to find out and identify whether there are any points which call for investigation?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : May I answer, Sir? I am sorry, Sir. I could not come earlier because of some engagement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not matter.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member when he says why this should not be done. I do not think my colleague said that this should not be done. The answer which we gave, as we have to, is a truthful answer. The question was whether any such proposal is under way, and as no such proposal was under way we have said that it is not under way. How the real thing is, this is a subject with which all of us are concerned. I agree that it is connected not only with the Department of Company Affairs and when we say Government is not contemplating, representing the Department of Company Affairs we said that the Department of Company Affairs is not doing anything so far. So far as the Company Law angle is concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that we exercise strict vigilance on the operations of the multi-national companies in India. So far as political interference is concerned;—that is the thrust of the question—now that there is a very good suggestion, I will, in consultation with my colleagues in the other concerned ministries initiate a discussion and see what we can do about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, at least he has given some answer which leads somewhere.

SHRI JAGIT SINGH ANAND : Sir, I am also glad that the answer by Shri Gokhale is an improvement on the answer

given by his Deputy, but I would still insist whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister that the leader of the American delegation to the Indo-US Joint Business Commission, Mr. Orville Freeman, when he was in this country, attacked the very concept of national sovereign States. In view of that speech and in view of the happenings that are rocking Italy, Belgium, Japan and other countries today, will the hon'ble Minister assure us—though no inquiry is underway—that a thorough study of the operations of the multi-nationals will be undertaken? Of course, he can associate any other Ministry in this. But will he give a definite assurance in this House?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Sir, I do not really know what Mr. Freeman said. But all that I can assure the House is that India is not going to be threatened by any statements made by Mr. Freeman or anyone else. I do not wish to say anything about Japan or other countries; that is not my business. But, so far as India is concerned, it would maintain its political and national sovereignty irrespective of whoever comes and speaks about anything in this country.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, how many questions will the hon'ble Minister answer? But surely will he please....?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He need not reply. Next question.

#### †Compulsory registration of marriages

\*439. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have taken decision to introduce a system of compulsory registration of marriages in the country and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. GOKHALE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Transferred from the 18th March, 1976. Previously numbered as Starred Question No. 229.

श्री देवराव पाटिल : सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने एक कॉफ्रेंस में इस बात का संकेत दिया था कि इस तरह का विचार सरकार के अधीन है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कंसिडरेशन में यह बात है या नहीं ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Yes, Sir, the question was whether a decision has been taken, and to that the answer was 'No, Sir'. But it is under consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, be brief so that we can take up another question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, now it seems that compulsory family planning is coming up before compulsory registration of marriages whereas the order should be the other way round. First there should be compulsory registration of marriages and then compulsory family planning.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Well, we can understand that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Harsh Deo Malaviya, you are not to reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I should like to know whether this matter of compulsory registration of marriages, since sometimes it involves complications and litigations, is being seriously thought of, and whether there is a possibility of making some arrangements whereby litigation could be avoided.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Probably, the hon'ble Member has in mind litigations arising out of the necessity of proof or evidence with regard to marriages. I do not know whether I am right in my understanding of him correctly. Otherwise, what litigations he is referring to, I am not really able to follow. ... (*Interruptions*). Sir, basically we are not opposed to registration; it is under the Hindu Marriage Act. Under the existing Hindu Marriage Act, there is a provision enabling the State Governments to make rules for registration of marriages, but, unfortunately, so far, none of the States have made these rules. I had occasion earlier to say—I do not remember whether it was in this House or the other House—that we have taken up this question repeatedly with the State Govern-

ments. Today, immediately after the Question Hour, I am going to introduce a very important Bill, according to me, relating to the amendment of the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act. Now it may be that in spite of many difficulties—not the difficulties of principle but the difficulties which are practical—I am not in a position to give an assurance today that this will be done within so much time, but, as told earlier, though no decision has been taken, it is under serious consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Railway Services

\*421. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken to make up the deficiency in the representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all the cadres in the Railways; and

(b) whether any special powers have been given to the Zonal Managers of Railways to wipe out the deficiency during the next three years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Statement

On Railways, recruitment to Class I services is made through the Union Public Service Commission.

There is generally no direct recruitment to Class II services, vacancies in Class II being filled by promotion of suitable Class III staff. However, recruitment to Class II posts in the Medical Department and in minor cadres, viz., (i) Assistant Chemists and Metallurgists, (ii) Assistant Cashiers and Pay Masters, and (iii) Assistant Superintendents Printing and Stationery is made through the Union Public Service Commission; a certain proportion of Class II