

got this matter examined by the Law Department and if so when did they get it examined and what action was taken?

Shri Hajarnavis: I do not think we consulted our Law Ministry but *prima facie* it does not appear to me to call for any examination from the legal point of view. We are shortly going to replace it by another and more modern system of taxation.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: In that case that information may be laid on the Table of the House after that examination.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if our Constitution has been applied to this island and if so how can this tax be realised?

Shri Hajarnavis: It does apply to all parts of our country.

Shri Tyagi: How can poll tax be realised? It is the old Moghul tax.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that the Constitution does apply and that *prima facie* this tax is not unconstitutional and that they had had no investigation made.

Shri Tyagi: But poll tax is it not unconstitutional?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing it though the answer has come.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: What is the explanation of the Government for refusing the right of suffrage for the people when they are collecting the taxes from them from times immemorial?

Shri Hajarnavis: It hardly arises out of this question. Right of suffrage has nothing to do with liability to pay taxation.

Political Sufferers

*1116. **Shri G. Mohanty:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts sanctioned by Government during 1962-63 for rehabilitation of political sufferers who fought for India's freedom, State-wise; and

(b) the procedure adopted to select the grantees and fix the amount of grant?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1267.63].

(a) Applications received from political sufferers for financial assistance are generally forwarded to the State Governments for consideration under their own schemes of relief. Assistance in the form of small lump sum cash grants is given from the Home Minister's Discretionary Grant, taking into account the recommendations of the State Government, the applicant's means and liabilities and other relevant considerations.

Shri G. Mohanty: May I know the number of grantees from each of the States and what is the scheme other than this?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I did not hear the second part of the question but as for the first part, the statement gives the amount given to each State. I have not got the break-up in regard to the number of applicants from the State Governments.

Shri G. Mohanty: May I know whether the Government have any other plan of rehabilitation besides pecuniary contribution?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The children of the political sufferers are being given educational assistance in the State Governments and the Union territory applicants are financed by the Central Government wholly. 50 per cent of the expenditure is met by the Central Government if the applicants are from the State Governments.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know whether the Government have called for a list of political sufferers who have participated in the freedom movement in the various States and, if so, whether there is any departure in giving this financial assistance to these people?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is no departure. There is no need for asking for information because we get enough applications from all the States in the Union. So, there is no need for taking any step about asking for information.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : यह जो आपने स्टेटमेंट में आंकड़े दिये हैं इनसे पता चलता है कि कुछ राज्यों के आंकड़े बहुत कम हैं। क्या इसका यह अर्थ है कि उन प्रान्तों से एप्लीकेशन्स कम आइ थीं या उन पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया इस कारण आंकड़े कम हैं ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is no discrimination between one State and another. It depends on the number of applications that we receive from the State Governments and the validity of the recommendations from the State Governments and our recommendations.

Dr. Gaitonde: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are hundred of Goan political sufferers who fought for the freedom of Goa and, if so, what steps are the Government taking to rehabilitate them?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We have also given some assistance to members from Goa, and if any application is made, it will be considered on its own merits.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: May I know whether the Government is receiving complaints that the real

political sufferers who have left the Congress are not getting any help?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We have not received any such complaint. That is a wrong accusation.

Shrinati Renu Chakravarty: I find that there is a tremendous discrepancy in respect of some States, in regard to the amount that is being granted to political sufferers. For example, for Tripura, the amount given is Rs. 46,700, while for Goa it is Rs. 200 and for Gujarat, Rs. 500. May I know whether the State Governments have been given full authority to send up the names, or is there any committee or body which recommends the cases, or is it left to the whims and fancies of the State Governments?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The hon. Member's question is rather misleading. In the statement it is given. Rs. 46,700 is the amount shown against Tripura. It has been stated there that it includes the sum of Rs. 44,100 granted as small loans to political sufferers. It is not a grant-in-aid. It is a loan. First of all, the question is misleading. Secondly, as I said in answer to an earlier question, whenever the applications are received, they are considered on merits. So, if more applications come from States which have received only smaller amounts, they will be surely considered on merits.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: My question was whether anybody can make application directly, or, has it always to come from the State Governments and the State Governments will only send up those applications which, according to their whims and fancies, deserve help?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: If they are directly made, even then, more often we refer them to the State Governments to find out whether the particulars mentioned are correct.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि आई० एन० ए० के लोगों को पोलिटिकल सफरर मान कर उनकी पेंशन का रुपया वापस देने की कोशिश की जा रही है ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No pension is given. The special grant does not permit any recurring allowance being given.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how this fact that political sufferers can get loan as well as financial assistance is brought to the notice of political sufferers in the different States of India?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We find that the amount allotted under the discretionary grant is being utilised within the year. This shows that the persons who are political sufferers know this information.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My hon. friend's question has not been fully answered. May I know if the former personnel of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj have been put on a complete par with freedom fighters inside the country and, if so, how many have been granted such benefits?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: They have been put completely on the same par. They are treated just like the other political sufferers and the same facilities are being provided.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाएंगे कि क्या केवल उन्हीं लोगों को पोलिटिकल सफरर माना जाता है जिन्होंने ने कांग्रेस के आन्दोलन में भाग लिया था या बाकी दूसरी पार्टियों के सदस्यों को भी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह सवाल तो किया गया था और उस का जवाब दे दिया गया है ।

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : सहायता देने के बाद भी बहुत बड़ी तादाद राजनीतिक विद्वानों की अभी बाकी है, और उनसे कहा

जाता है कि अब प्रार्थना पत्र इस लिये नहीं लिए जाएँगे कि समय समाप्त हो गया । इसके बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी को क्या कहना है ?

श्री साल बहादुर शास्त्री : प्रार्थना पत्र लेने के लिए कोई समय बंधा हुआ नहीं है । जहाँ तक भारत सरकार की बात है, कोई भी किसी भी समय प्रार्थना पत्र दे सकता है । मेरा ख्याल है कि अभी हाल ही में श्री सरजू पाण्डेय जी की सिफारिश पर मैं ने एक साहब को सहायता दी है । इस लिए इस में साम्यवादी दल या किसी दल का सवाल नहीं पैदा होता ।

Attorney-General's Advice on Affairs of a Firm

{ Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
*1117. { Shri P. R. Ohakraverti:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Attorney-General of India has submitted a final or interim report in respect of the reference made to him regarding the entries in the books of accounts of an export firm involving certain politicians; and

(b) if so, whether a statement would be laid on the Table giving the reasons, conclusions and recommendations of the Attorney-General?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: In view of the fact that prolongation of these public controversies heightens the sense of cynicism, may I know what steps Government have taken to expedite the obtaining of this advice, particularly in view of the fact that the Attorney General's advice on the Compulsory Deposit Scheme Bill was available within 24 hours? Why has