

carried out repairs to their buildings on receipt of notices from the Corporation and legal action has been initiated in 108 cases. One of the terms of reference to the Commission of Inquiry is that the Commission shall suggest safeguards against similar house collapses in future.

Goa

- *44. **Shri J. B. S. Bist:**
Shri Bagri:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Dr. L. M. Singhi:
Shri Basappa:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Kolla Venkalah:
Shri M. N. Swamy:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Nath Pai:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on an "opinion poll" in Goa to ascertain the wishes of people of Goa whether they would like to merge in Maharashtra or retain their separate identity; and

(b) the particulars of the proposal and when it is likely to be held?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An 'Opinion Poll' is proposed to be held in Goa simultaneously with the General Elections in February, 1967 to determine whether Goa should be merged in Maharashtra or continue to remain a Union Territory. The issue will be decided by simple majority. The poll will be held on the basis of the electoral rolls for the Parliamentary elections in Goa.

Costlier Education

- *45. **Shri Maheswar Nalk:**
Shri Bagri:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Vishram Prasad:
Shri Kashi Ram Gupta:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Nardeo Snatak:
Shri C. M. Kedarla:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the contention of the All-India Students Congress that Government are responsible for making education costlier and beyond the reach of the poor and have demanded immediate steps to bring down the prices of technical books, scientific apparatus and stationery; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make education less expensive at all levels in the country and to bring down the prices of technical books, scientific apparatus and stationery?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Attempts are being continually made to reduce the cost of education and to bring it within the reach of the poor by provision of free education, free supply of books, mid-day meals, grant of scholarships, production of text books at cheap prices and establishment of co-operative stores in educational institutions for sale of essential commodities including stationery at reasonable prices.

Arrangements to bring out less expensive books on science and technology already exist in a limited way under the schemes for re-publication of standard educational works in co-operation with friendly countries.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training has also taken up an extensive programme for production of low-cost model

text-books and teachers' guides in all subjects including science and technology for all levels of school education. A Central Science Workshop has also been established for producing *proto-types* of science laboratory equipment at low cost.

The Education Commission has made several recommendations on the subject which are now under examination.

Espionage Case

*46. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Daji:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the statement made on the 6th September, 1966 and state:

(a) whether investigation into the conduct of the Officer who gave wrong information in the case of Pakistani spies has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). The matter is still under inquiry.

Discontent among Government Servants

*47. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any analysis and assessment of the recent discontent and indiscipline in Government services;

(b) what are Government's conclusions in the matter; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) to (c). Government have kept the situation under observation. Agitations have been largely on account of inadequacy of dearness allowance. Government have recently appointed a Commis-

sion of Inquiry under the chairmanship of former Chief Justice, Shri P. B. Gajendragadkar, to inquire into all aspects of neutralisation for increase in cost of living. The Commission has already made its recommendations for past neutralisation and for neutralisation at the average cost of living index of 175 points. These recommendations have been accepted in toto by Government and decisions announced. The Commission will also go into the principles that should govern the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees in future having regard among other relevant factors to the repercussions on the finances of State Govts., public sector undertakings, local bodies, etc. It is hoped that when the Commission's report is received, it will be possible to solve this main problem of Government employees on a satisfactory basis.

With a view to having an institutional arrangement for full and frank discussions between Government as an employer on the one hand and representatives of the employees on the other in matters of common concern for discussion of legitimate grievances of employees and with the object, further, of increasing the efficiency of public service, a scheme for joint consultative machinery and compulsory arbitration for Central Government employees has been inaugurated on 28th October 1966.

In a declaration of joint intent subscribed to both by Government and by employees' organisations participating in the scheme, it has been agreed that the employees' organisation will give a fair trial to the scheme for a minimum period of five years and that during this period of trial, all disputes shall be resolved through the machinery of joint consultation and compulsory arbitration. Government expect, therefore, that there will be no need for employees' organisations to adopt an agitational approach to their problems in future.