

Shri M. M. Das: I do not understand the question, Sir.

Shri Sanganna: May we know the reason for disallowing this request?

Shri M. M. Das: Generally, this kind of grants are given from the Minister's discretionary funds, under the discretion of the Minister. We referred the matter to the Orissa Government to inform us about the standard of this book, and whether the Orissa Government themselves are contributing any financial aid to the publication of this book. The Orissa Government informed us that they did not consider the book of a sufficiently high standard and they themselves did not propose to give any financial aid. So, the request was turned down by the Central Government also.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any copies of this puran are available in the Parliamentary Library?

Shri M. M. Das: Out of 18 cantos or parvas, only one parva has been published and I do not know whether it has been sent to the Parliament Library or not.

Dr Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether at the time of giving this discretionary grant to other persons, the State Ministries concerned are always consulted?

Shri M. M. Das: I think some kind of procedure is followed. But, after all, it is a discretionary grant and it depends upon the discretion of the Minister.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Besides the Government of Orissa, may I know whether any non-official organisation of Orissa has recommended this book, and, if so, what steps are being taken by Government to see whether the book is really worth being taken by the Government?

Shri M. M. Das: I want notice of the question.

Shri Radha Raman: What was the amount asked for and what was the

amount which this enterprise actually involved?

Shri M. M. Das: The author of this book asked Rs 30,000 from the Government of India. Generally, in such cases, we give a matching grant; that is, we give the same amount as is given by the State Government. In this case, the Orissa Government do not propose to give any grant for the publication of this book.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether before a decision was taken on this matter, the question was referred to the Sahitya Akademi, especially the Orissa Member on that?

Shri M. M. Das: It was not referred, so far as I know. But I am not sure.

Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*473. **Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has submitted the Sixth Annual Report under Article 338 of the Constitution, and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Shri Siddiah: May I know whether the report will be laid before the House during this Session?

Shrimati Alva: The report has just been submitted to the Home Minister; it will be examined and placed before the House.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is it a fact that the Commissioner submitted the report to the President in the month of January and may I also know why there is always delay in presenting the report to the House and have it discussed by the House?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): January of which year?

Shri Thimmaiah: This year.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I do not think it was submitted in January. That does not seem to be quite correct. The report has to be printed before being placed on the Table of the House; and copies are sent to the State Governments for their comments.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the hon. Minister will consider the desirability of getting the report and submitting it to Parliament before the Budget session of each year?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I doubt if it will be possible to get copies from the Press. But, if they can be made available, I shall be glad to place them on the Table of the House

Shri Basumatari: At least those who are interested may be supplied with copies.

Shri Sonavane: When will the Report of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1955 be taken up for consideration by this House?

Pandit G. B. Pant: That is for the House to decide

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: What report is to be considered in this session?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should see that I have called the next question

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I stood up before calling out the next question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even if it was a mistake, then, the hon. Member has to reconcile himself for the time being. All right, the hon. Member may put his question

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: It is said in the programme that the Report of the Commissioner for Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes will be considered in this House. May I know whether it is the 5th report or

the 6th report which is to be considered?

Pandit G. B. Pant: A report was placed on the Table last year. It has not been discussed.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I think the new Members have not been supplied with copies. Will the Government supply copies to the new Members—copies of the same report?

Pandit G. B. Pant: If copies are available, I shall supply them.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: How will it be possible,.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member goes on putting questions without waiting. I had already passed to the next question when I allowed him to put one question. Then he put also a second question and he is putting a third question and so on. I cannot allow that. Next question

Exploration of Petroleum

*474. **Shri J. R. Mehta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been negotiating with some French contractors for the exploration of petroleum in Jaisalmer, and

(b) if so, the outcome of the negotiations?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided to drop the proposal to have the work done through foreign contractors

Shri J. R. Mehta: What agency or agencies have already been engaged in exploring the areas and may I know what results have been achieved so far?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This proposal was dropped because of unfavourable foreign exchange position and also because the Govern-