

had recommended that the past arrears of rent should be written off as it was done in the case of Annapurna in this Kamla Market area?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have no knowledge of the committee to which the hon Member has referred, but for all our properties, whether they are situated in Delhi or outside, we charge rents according to a certain formula. My own feeling in the matter is that a man having a shop in Delhi has much less excuse for the non-payment of rent compared to a man living in an outside area.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that for a long time the area was not very suitable for commercial purposes and in view of that fact the Annapurna was charged rent at a lower level and, if so, may I know why a discrimination should be made in the case of displaced stall holders?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Some of our markets started flourishing from the very first day, some took a little time. The anxiety on the part of the allottees of Kamla Market to become owners really indicates that it is a very flourishing market. Secondly, Annapurna was given some two or three rooms on the first floor as a part of the food campaign and for popularising certain eatable objects. Also, it was our intention that by taking Annapurna there in the initial stages we may also attract some customers. Annapurna, unfortunately, ran under a very great loss. It was not a commercial organisation. Such being the case, I believe that we have given a certain amount of concession to Annapurna. That is no excuse for any shopkeeper who runs an establishment purely on a commercial basis to be exempted from payment of rent.

N.E.F.A.

*501 **Shri Basumatari:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of schools in the North East Frontier Agency has declined now in comparison with that in 1955, and

(b) if so, the reasons for this decline?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes, the number of Schools in 1955 was 171 and now it stands at 121.

(b) (i) Due to unsettled conditions in Tuensang Frontier Division, 45 Schools were closed down in this Division.

(ii) It is the policy of the N.E.F.A. Administration to close down some Schools in the interior with poor attendance and to consolidate them at more central and accessible places with provision for free board and lodging. 5 Schools in Divisions other than Tuensang have been closed down in pursuance of this policy.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that we are stressing very greatly the importance of development works in this NEFA area, may I know what actually happened, whether any particular disturbance has taken place in those very schools that have closed down and what was the reason for them to close down?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have not understood what the hon Member means by "our stressing something about finding work."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We have been stressing the importance of development works in this area. I want to know the reason why these schools have been closed down, whether they have been centres of activity or disturbance?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are two aspects, and it is difficult to give one reply effectively. There is no doubt that in certain inner parts of Tuensang area there have been petty disturbances in the past year or so, not in the schools to my knowledge,

but rather in the area. That was possibly one reason. The other reason is that we were really concentrating on making bigger schools rather than small ones which could not be run properly. There is a third approach to the problem, which is a very important one, the whole

problem of the North-East Frontier Area to which I have become increasingly a convert, and that is, not to interfere too much in the ways of life of the people living there, helping them as much as possible by way of schools, hospitals and so on, but not imposing anything on them even though we may consider it good for them

That is the broad policy we want to pursue. In fact, as a result of that policy I have even suggested going slower than we have been doing in these areas, because we go to a people whose economy, ways of life and thinking are completely and absolutely different, and I do not like the idea of imposing my way of life and my way of thinking on them, except in so far as that they gradually grow into it. Therefore, actually, I am trying my best to slow down these procedures that have been taking place so that they may gradually grow into them and not otherwise.

Shri P C Borooah May I know if any schools have been closed down for withdrawal of Assamese language as the medium of instruction?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru Not at all, because Assamese language is taught in the schools wherever they wish it. So, there is no question of that. The question sometimes arises as to the order—both Hindi and Assamese are taught—whether Hindi should be taught first or Assamese should be taught first. Both are taught in most of the schools.

Shri Hem Barua In view of the statement just now made by the Prime Minister, that schools are closed down only in Tuensang Frontier whereas to my knowledge, as far as the statement issued on 11th June by the NEFA Administration is concerned there are schools closed down in several divisions like Kameng, Pasighat and Subansiri, may I know whether it is because of the fact that the Administration has centralised the schools and the tribal economy goes counter to the centralised schools, because the tribal children have to work in the fields and contribute to the family budget and, therefore they find it

difficult to go to centralised schools with hostels etc?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It is rather difficult to give a general reply to this question. If the hon. Member finds out the particular place, I shall gladly answer it.

Shri Hem Barua The NEFA administration issued a statement on June 11th from Shillong in which they said, "We are centralising these institutions and we are building hostels for the children." But for the tribal people, it is counter to their economy and way of life. That is the reason.

Shri Tyagi The hon. Member is giving a long lecture.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty. From what the Prime Minister said, may I know whether the schools were not proving popular with the tribal people and whether these schools were counter to their normal life?

Shri Hem Barua. That was what I was asking.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru I will not say the schools are counter, but they are something completely different from their ways of life, because they had no schools previously. It is obviously something new and novel. It may be, of course, that the school may be run in a way so as to fit in more with their ways of life than is the case now, I entirely agree with that proposition.

But the hon. Member who spoke first said something, as a matter of fact, the answer was giving in the reply read out by my colleague. They have centralised schools, that has nothing to do with any local effort being made because there is great demand for education there. There is hardly enough. There is demand for education and these local schools were inefficient and not properly run mainly because the resources were not quite enough, or whatever it may be. Therefore, some good schools are run. Nobody is forced to go there; they go if they want to. Gradually we shall spread out as people are agreeable to our doing so.