

this labour for the sake of a small number of students.

Secondly, with the abolition of the Means Test, thousands of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had to undergo all the trouble of getting income-tax certificates have been saved the trouble.

Thirdly, the number of candidates in the case of Scheduled Tribes not being adequate to fulfil the quota of scholarships, abolition of the Means Test will help to raise the number of eligible candidates.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** In view of the fact that the Central Government have abolished the Means Test, may I know whether the same will be communicated to State Governments for their observance?

**Dr K. L. Shrimall:** It has been communicated.

**Shri Barman:** As I understand it, the Means Test was abolished only in the midst of the year, that is, as late as August last. What have Government done to give this wide publicity so that people might know?

**Dr K. L. Shrimall:** The decision to abolish the Means Test was taken early in August 1957. A Press note inviting applications was issued by August 31, 1957. There were some requests for extension of the last date for receipt of applications, and extension upto 30th September was generally granted.

#### Tobacco Crop in Orissa

\*1399. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco crop in Orissa has been affected seriously by State-wide drought condition during 1957;

(b) if so, the acreage of crop affected;

(c) the loss of revenue apprehended on account of this from the Orissa Circle during the year 1957-58,

(d) whether any areas in the State have been declared exempted from central Excise duty on tobacco during the year 1957-58, and

(e) if so, which are these areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Shri Sanganna:** The taxation Inquiry Commission had suggested the appointment of a Tobacco Inquiry Committee. What action has been taken by the Government thereon?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** That has nothing to do with this question. This relates to tobacco crop in Orissa.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether the question of exempting tobacco cultivation from taxation is a periodic feature?

**Mr Speaker:** What is the meaning in going from drought to exemption?

**Shri Sanganna:** This has been asked in part (d) of the question.

**Mr Speaker:** What is the answer to (d)?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I have said that we have no information. We are collecting information from the State Government and as soon as it is received, we will make it available.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether Government are contemplating exempting tobacco cultivation from taxation from time to time?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** It is very difficult to answer a hypothetical question. We have not got the facts before us. We do not know the extent of damage. Whether it is a policy or not, that matter will have to be decided on the merits of each case.

**Shri Panigrahi:** What is the amount of arrears under central excise duty in Orissa not yet realised?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I require notice.

#### Classical Music

\*1400. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether any of the State Governments have planned music conferences on the lines of the music conference recently organised by the Bombay Government in order to popularise the classical music and patronise the musicians too?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):** The required information is being collected

**Shri Damani:** May I know whether Government will suggest to State Governments to organise such music conferences to encourage classical music?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** Government have no information with regard to the conference which the hon Member is suggesting. We can consider this matter only after we have examined the question.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether open air conferences are likely to be organised by the Government to popularise classical music?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** This question does not arise. The original question related to a particular conference supposed to have been held in Bombay. Government have no information about it. I am collecting the information, and I cannot, therefore, answer questions relating to the conference.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** This is a question of popularising classical music.

**Shri Tyagi:** Have Government ever considered the feasibility of transferring the subject of classical music to the Ministry of I. & B?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** This question does not arise out of the original question.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I want to put the same question in another way. Is there any co-ordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of I. & B in encouraging classical music?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** Government function as a whole and there is perfect co-ordination.

#### State Homes and District Shelters



\*1401. { **Shri Ghosal:**  
**Shri B. Das Gupta:**

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the number of State Homes and District shelters established through the Central Social Welfare Board;

(b) whether any such State Homes or District shelters have been sanctioned for West Bengal, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):** (a) to (c) Statements giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 120]

**Shri Ghosal:** How many persons have been accommodated by the State Home of West Bengal?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** One Home has been sanctioned for West Bengal.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question Hour is over.

**Shri Jadhav:** Question No 1414 is a very important one. It relates to the Nasik Printing Press. The workers are on strike for the last seven days.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. Minister willing to answer?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** If the Chair directs me, I shall answer it.