

everywhere. Wherever facilities come to us, it is done but the idea is to deal with all the languages equally.

Estate Duty

*388. **Shri Muhammed Elias:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state how much has it cost Government to maintain the machinery to realise the Estate Duty so far?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The cost for the period 15-10-1953 to 31-1-1958 is estimated at Rs 23 86 lakhs.

Shri Muhammed Elias: What is the amount of Estate Duty collected from West Bengal during the year 1956-57 and what amount has been spent in that year to realise the Estate Duty?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We had not got the figures.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Statewise we have not got. If necessary we can give the total amount collected. The total income for the whole period is Rs. 5 95 crores and odd. During the first year there was expenses only on the organisation—that is 1953-54. Afterwards, from 1954 to 1958, for four years, the expenditure is, as my colleague pointed out, Rs 23 86 lakhs. The collection, as I have said, has been nearly Rs 6 crores.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Now that there has been this five year period when the Estate Duty has been levied, has the Government got a track of the amount being gifted away by those who would be assessed under the Estate Duty.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government are aware of this. I do not know if they have got a separate register for it. In fact, we realised that it might happen. The real difficulty is perhaps not so much gifts but the joint Hindu family. It is

an amorphous thing. It is difficult to know how many heads it has and how many tails.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What is the biggest amount received so far in a single case?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have not got that. But my own recollection is that really large amounts have normally not been touched. I mean to say that the Joint Hindu family has come in the way.

Mr. Speaker: Out of these amounts which make up a total of Rs. 6 crores, what is the single largest amount? The hon Member wants that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got that detail. We can find it out if necessary.

Fire in Teliamura Bazar (Tripura)

*390. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in Teliamura Bazar (Tripura) on the 3rd January, 1958 resulting in the burning of all the shops there;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of property and cause of the fire; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to give relief to the affected persons?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). An accidental fire broke out in a tea stall in the Teliamura Bazar on the 3rd January, 1958 resulting in the gutting of a majority of the huts on the southern side of the road. The total loss is estimated at Rs. 2,87,800—.

(c) Immediate relief in the shape of rice and cash was given to 30 families who were rendered homeless and destitute. The question of granting further gratuitous relief to the deserving persons is under the consideration of the Local Administration.