

how much of the sanctioned amount has been spent?

**Shrimati Alva:** For 1956-57, it was Rs. 10 lakhs. For 1957-58, the amount is not available.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the amount for the current year, 1958-59?

**Shrimati Alva:** The Government have proposed that a sum of Rs. 6.92 lakhs out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 10 lakhs will be handed over to the State for the current year.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know whether this entire amount will be spent only in Koraput or in other places where the Sarva Seva Sangh is carrying on work?

**Shrimati Alva:** Seven blocks have been envisaged for the Koraput district.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know the Sangh has rendered accounts for the amount spent already to the Government of India?

**Shrimati Alva:** Proper accounts have not yet been forthcoming, but the audit reports contain certain observations.

**Shri B. C. Mullick:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Sarva Seva Sangh in Orissa could not spend the money in due time as the Orissa Government did not recognise many of the villages as gramdan villages according to the list submitted by the Sangh?

**Shrimati Alva:** No, Sir.

**Shri Tyagi:** What are the functions assigned to this Sarva Seva Sangh? Are they working according to certain items prescribed in the Plan and are their accounts audited?

**Shrimati Alva:** Their accounts are now audited.

**Shri Tyagi:** What are their functions?

**Shrimati Alva:** They had undertaken to work in 1,000 villages which were given by the *bhoodan* movement. The first six items, irrigation, soil

conservation, hygiene, etc. fall within the centrally sponsored programmes and for the rest, grants were given by private agency.

**Shri Tyagi:** Do they work exclusively or side by side with the various departments of irrigation, etc.?

**Shrimati Alva:** I have just said that they are working with the Community Development Ministry.

#### Kannada Language Novel

\*1276. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the translation into various Indian languages of the novel "Chenna Basava Nayaka" in Kannada has been stopped by the Sahitya Akademi; and

(b) what other Kannada novel has been selected for translation into regional languages?

**The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) According to information available from the Sahitya Akademi, the book is being translated into Hindi.

(b) (i) Shantala by K. V. Iyer, and (ii) Marali Mannige by S. Karanth.

**Shri Shivananjappa:** May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that this book has roused a great deal of controversy in the State of Mysore and it has affected the religious sentiments of the people?

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** We have received certain complaints and the Sahitya Akademi considered this matter. It has received also letters and signed communications from lecturers and well-known writers of the University there, some of whom belong to the community which is supposed to have an objection to that particular novel.

**Shri Shivananjappa:** May I know whether some woman has undertaken

a fast just to lodge a protest against the publication and circulation of this novel?

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** We were informed that a fast was undertaken on the 25th of August and came to an end on the 27th of August.

**Shri Basappa:** May I know whether it is a fact that the author of this book in the preface has expressed regret for writing certain portions which wounded the feelings of certain people and this very author happens to be a member of the Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi which thought it wise to decide that this book should be translated? As many complaints have been received, will the Government reconsider the question or advice the Sahitya Akademi to reconsider this question, because it sets one community against another, wounds the feelings of certain people and attributes all kinds of immorality to respectable women and all that?

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** All these matters were taken into consideration. The book was published in Kannada in 1949 and has run into two editions there and no objection was ever raised there. It was only towards the end of 1957 that some objections were raised. In the meantime, an English translation has been published in that very area.

**Shri Basappa:** May I know....

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever has been accepted by the Akademi, is it be undone by fasting? Who is to decide whether a novel is good or not? Educated or uneducated men? Hon. Members wanted some information. Hon. Minister has given the information. I am not going to allow this kind of discussion any further.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** May I request the hon. Minister to go through the English translation of the novel and find out the objectionable portions himself?

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. The hon. Minister will certainly do that.

Evidently, there seems to be some difference of opinion. There may be some hunger-strike by women and some others. But they may not be as learned as others. Some hon. Members are taking exception to this. The hon. Minister will kindly see what exactly can be done. Surely, other hon. Members from Mysore will also look into it.

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** May I just say a word? This matter was considered at its meeting by the Sahitya Akademi, and the Chairman of the Akademi, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made the observation that—

“it was unanimously approved by the Executive Board that in selecting books for this purpose the Sahitya Akademi should be guided by considerations of literary merit and it should respect the author's legitimate right to express himself truthfully and fearlessly.”

**Shri Basappa:** That has been disputed. We want to know whether fact has been disputed.

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** That is “a matter of opinion.”

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** I do not know if the Minister has read this novel. I have read it.

**Mr. Speaker:** What did he do so long?

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** It was written in the year 1921 and published in the year 1950 or 1951. Perhaps you are not aware that it came into limelight when it was approved by the Sahitya Akademi. Is the Minister aware that this novel contains very serious reflections and grave allegations against the character of a historical lady, who was the queen of the Karnataka State, and whose memory is held in high esteem for generations, and this has wounded the feelings of a large section of the people? Is it advisable on the part of the Government to aggravate this trouble and

allow its publication? Is it prudent on the part of the Government to do so?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is making a speech.

**Shri Mohammed Imam:** I want to ask two or three questions.

**Shri Humayun Kabir:** My answer very simple. The Government is not concerned. It does not come into the picture at all. It is published independently by an autonomous corporation. The Sahitya Akademi selected it for translation into a particular language, Hindi.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that I am anxious is to avoid trouble. I am not allowing more than a few questions during the Question Hour. If it is a controversial matter, merely because the Sahitya Akademi thinks the language is good, they cannot publish it if it contains obnoxious matters which affect the religious feelings of a large number of people. If they do it, there is no reason why Government should subscribe to it and then hand-over the autonomous body large sums of money. Therefore, I will be obliged to have a discussion in this matter. I do not want to create disturbance. Already there is tension everywhere—Middle East, Far East and so on. Therefore, let us not add one more trouble. So, I would request the hon. Minister to have a talk with the Home Minister and then find out whether it really contains all sorts of objectionable matters. He may go into it himself. Then hon. Members coming from sides of the House may consider this dispassionately, especially hon. Members who come from Mysore. Under these circumstances, the hon. Minister will kindly reconsider this matter.

**Shri Tyagi:** On a point of order. I would like you to kindly guide the House in the matter of the so-called "autonomous bodies" which are run by the funds of the State. The hon. Minister has just now stated that such and such a novel was published by an autonomous body, known as the

Sahitya Akademi or something. There are others, the Bharat Sevak Samaj, this Samaj and that Sangh. I want to know where we stand. Can we question the activities indulged in by these so-called autonomous bodies, because they are always given funds by the State or can we not?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is trying to raise a bigger issue. We are only concerned with this autonomous body, and not other autonomous bodies, their constitutions etc. My observations relate only to this publication. Regarding others, it is a matter that has to be decided that when the Central Government is giving grants, how far the Central Government or this House can go into the matter and whether it can go into the matter of minute details or only some of the broad details. I have decided this with respect to one or two matters already. If the hon. Members express a desire that we should go into them, I will ask my office to prepare a booklet containing the constitutions of these autonomous bodies and find out what the Ministers' jurisdictions are. We are working through the Ministers, so far as we are concerned. If the Ministers themselves have no powers, how can we go into those details? These are all matters to be considered. If after the publication of this—I am trying to gather material—if the hon. Members still think that the Ministers must be clothed with larger powers so that we may have fuller control, that is another matter. It is not a matter to be disposed of now on this short question.

#### Life Insurance Corporation

\*1278. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has tried to extend its scope of working by transacting business outside India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?