

Oils have not ructified, as mutually accepted prices/terms could not be settled.

(b) Does not arise.

**Central Government Officers**

\*52. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers of the Central Government are under suspension pending enquiries for over 6 months and for over 2 years; and

(b) what steps are being taken to expedite decision in these cases?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) The information is being collected. According to information made available so far, 82 gazetted and 1310 non-gazetted Government servants are under suspension. A statement will be laid on the Table of the House after full information is received.

(b) The practice is to give priority in the matter of departmental and other inquiries to cases in which the Government servant concerned is under suspension.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether the Home Ministry gets any periodical returns to indicate the period of suspension when it is more than six months? If not, how do they exercise their control in the matter?

**Shri Datar:** We have appointed two inquiry officers. They are instructed to finish the inquiries as early as possible. Oftentimes, we receive information by way of return also.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know if the hon. Minister does not even know how many officers are under suspension for more than two years?

**Shri Datar:** So far as the information at my disposal is concerned, in the category 'above two years', there are 30 gazetted officers and 270 non-gazetted officers.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether these cases where a large number of officers are under suspension for more than two years are examined by any particular machinery to see that they are expedited?

**Shri Datar:** That is what I pointed out. We have issued instructions to the effect that these cases should be dealt with as expeditiously as possible, and it is solely for this purpose that two officers have been appointed as inquiry officers.

**Scheme for Election Broadcast**

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\*55. { **Shri P. G. Deb:**  
      **Shri Supakar:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commissioner formulated a scheme for Election Broadcast; and

(b) if so, whether it was accepted by any political party?

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme put forward by the Election Commission for the apportionment of broadcasting time among the parties on the basis of the number of seats held in the existing House plus the number of candidates put up by each party, was not acceptable to Praja Socialist and Communist parties. Other parties attending the conference convened by the Chief Election Commissioner indicated their keenness to participate and desire to work out an equitable formula but could not suggest one which could be arrived at on the available data.

**Shri P. G. Deb:** May I know the reason why these political parties refused to use the election broadcast facilities?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** It is a question which should be addressed to them.