

schemes which will help in the propagation of Hindi. As far as non-Hindi-speaking areas are concerned, certain organisations have put forward certain proposals, but we do not consider these organisations to be of all-India nature and the work is not considered to be of all-India importance; it is considered to be of local importance. Therefore, we have requested those organisations to send their applications through the respective State Governments. As soon as the State Governments accept those proposals, we will be willing to consider those applications for grants.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I seek a clarification as to what the hon. Deputy Minister means by local nature?

Mr. Speaker: Next question. The Hindi matter will come up before the House.

Life Insurance Corporation

*188. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has prepared its report under Section 27 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956; and

(b) if so, when it will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The Life Insurance Corporation has decided to adopt the calendar year as its financial year in keeping with the practice prevalent in insurance companies prior to nationalisation. The Corporation came into being only on 1st September, 1956 and as such the preparation of a separate account for four months of the year was not considered necessary because the period was too small. The Corporation has accordingly decided that its first financial year will be for sixteen months ending 31st December, 1957 and thereafter it will correspond to a calendar year. The first report will,

therefore, be submitted to Government sometime during 1958 and thereafter it will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I would like to add to the answer that has been given. Since the House wants to know what the Corporation does, I am asking the Corporation to submit an interim report for as many months as possible. I hope it will be possible for me to give the House an account in the next session.

Shri Radha Raman: The hon. Minister has just now said that he will be placing an interim report before the House in the next session. May I know if the Government was receiving from the various zones under the Life Insurance Corporation regular reports? If they are received, what is the duration for which they are called for?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Having constituted the Corporation, it is not possible for us to keep in touch with the work in the zones. The Corporation gets reports from the zones. After all, the Government can only deal with the Corporation as such and not with the respective offices in the zones. I do not think the hon. Member wants the Government to keep in touch with the zones as it is not possible for us to do so by passing the Central Office of this Corporation.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the total life business done by the Life Insurance Corporation has increased since the inception of the Corporation? Is it more than the life insurance business that was being done by the three hundred odd companies in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position can only be compared on the basis of a calendar year and during the calendar year 1956 there has been a drop in the business of about Rs. 68 crores.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the provisions of the Life

Insurance Corporation Act with regard to establishing of tribunals and other matters have been met and whether there are any other things which are still remaining and if so what are they?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is an omnibus question. So far as Tribunals are concerned, they are being constituted. But I cannot really off-hand say what are the things that have not been done and what have been done.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it true that the different wings, that is zonal, divisional and central organisations of the Life Insurance Corporation have not been working satisfactorily, from the administrative point of view? If so, may I know what steps Government are taking to bring about a change in the administrative structure of the Corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid from my personal point of view the whole set up is wrong, because there is a hierarchy without any division of responsibility. I think we have to look into it.

Shri Heda: Formerly Government had formulated some policy with regard to revising some ways of fixing expenditure in relation to premium amount. Many I know what it was formerly and what it is after nationalisation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot say precisely what it was formerly. I remember that we had various figures ranging from about 11 per cent. to 16 per cent and many companies were following those figures. So far as nationalised insurance is concerned, it is not bound by any such figure. We do hope that it will be possible for us to reach the lowest limit.

Release of Political Prisoners in Kerala

Mr. Speaker: Question 189.

Shri Easwara Iyer: I wish to raise a point of order with regard to this question.

Mr. Speaker: Let the question be put first.

Shri Easwara Iyer: In this case the power of the State Government to remit sentences of death or order release of political prisoners is derived by virtue of article 181 of the Constitution and sections 401 and 402 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This power is absolute. It should not be the subject matter of discussion in this House by way of questions, because it is beyond the purview of the Central Government.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will reply to that.

Let the answer to the question be read first.

*189. { **Shri H. C. Mathur:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether commutation of death sentences and general amnesty to the political prisoners were announced and given effect to by the present Kerala Government after obtaining the concurrence of the Central Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): No. The announcement was made without any reference to the Central Government. A recommendation for the commutation of death sentences in certain cases has been received from the Government of Kerala State and is under consideration of the Central Government.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं यह ज नना चाहता हूँ कि जब सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट क. मर्जी के खिलाफ कोरन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने कार्यवाही की है, तो इस पर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने क्या स्टेप लिया है ?

Shri Easwara Iyer: May I know your ruling on my point of order?

Mr. Speaker: What has the hon. Minister to say?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): What is the point of order?