

not have to meet the hardship of the rains that are impending?

Shri Datar: What can be done would be that sites should be selected and sites should be available for the villagers to construct temporary huts during this year. The question of constructing permanent huts or cottages or houses will be taken up next year.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if the Government have in view any sites suggested by the State Government and if so, what are they?

Shri Datar: The Government will have before them the suggestions with regard to the sites in respect of all these 14 villages.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government will give any monetary help for the construction of temporary huts?

Shri Datar: Government would give them loan assistance for the construction of new structures.

Supply of C.I. Sheets to Assam

*549. **Shri Bhagavati:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that brick buildings are rare in Assam and Assam pattern houses are generally built with the C.I. Sheets roofing; and

(b) whether Government have considered the necessity of bigger quota of C.I. Sheets for the State of Assam?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have considered the necessity of bigger quota of C.I. Sheets on the basis of certain *ad hoc* requests received from Assam Government, but have not been able to meet the demand fully due to shortage of materials.

Shri Bhagavati: May I know the quantity that has been sanctioned by the Central Government?

Sardar Swaran Singh: In April, 1957, the State Government requested for an allotment of 500 tons of C.I. sheets on account of the situation that arose there due to fire devastation. Out of this, 200 tons were allotted.

Shri Bhagavati: May I know on what basis the allotment is made—population basis or according to the requirement?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No; this question relates to *ad hoc* demands—There are certain regular demands according to which allocations are made every year. This quantity is in addition to the regular allotment that is made.

Mr. Speaker: So, it is not according to the population.

Sardar Swaran Singh: No; population is not the deciding factor in this case.

Shri Ranga: When the State Government wanted 500 tons, what was the criterion for the Government of India sanctioning only 200 tons? The State Government should be expected to know the actual needs of the people there in view of the outbreak of fire.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Non-availability of material was the factor which weighed with us in cutting down the allotment. We are trying to secure more; if it is available, we will give it.

Upgrading of Delhi, Kanpur and Madras

*550. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Muhammed Elias:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi, Kanpur and Madras cities will be upgraded to A class cities for the

purposes of payments of Compensatory and House Rent Allowances to Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, from what date?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government have not taken any such decision.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the population of these places does not warrant upgradation?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): This is a matter of expression of opinion, which I do not propose to answer.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that according to the 1951 census, the population of Madras city is over a million and in view of the fact that for the purpose of bank employees Madras city is placed under A class, will Government consider the position and upgrade the Madras city?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It does not arise.

Shri Anthony Pillai: May I know whether the Finance Minister attended a meeting in January last at which he gave an assurance to the Central Government employees that he would consider sympathetically the question of upgrading Madras city to A class, in view of the fact that the recent census of 1951 showed that Madras had a population of about 14 lakhs and also taking into consideration the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission that any city with over 10 lakhs population should be upgraded to A class?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact, Sir, that I did not see the hon. Member at that meeting, I do not think there is any room for him to draw any presumptions therefrom.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know whether apart from population there should be other criteria for fixing the grades of stations, because there are certain hill-stations like Simla, Naini

Tal, Darjeeling, Ooty etc. where the cost of living is higher than stations like Bareilly and Haldwani, and yet according to population they are B Class stations?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My friend is asking for a dowry before the bride has been fixed.

Shri Tangamani: The Central Pay Commission has recommended placing cities having a population of one million in class A. Delhi and Madras are placed under Class A for the benefit of the bank employees. Under the circumstances, will the Government consider the question of upgrading the city of Madras for the purpose of payment of compensatory and house rent allowances to Central Government employees?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is trying to argue out this matter. The hon. Minister must have considered all this.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. The hon. Finance Minister stated that I was not present at that meeting. I was present and it was Shri T. T. Krishnamachari who was late for the meeting.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not remember to have seen the hon. Member at the meeting.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister might not have noticed. We will go to the next question.

Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*51. **Shri Siddhu:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made a recommendation to Government to create a seventh region comprising Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh and to appoint a Regional Commissioner for the same; and