

purpose. There has, probably, been an increase because whenever attempts are made to restrict the use of any commodity, then alone the occasion arises for illicit traffic. So, so long as liquor could be very easily had, it was easier to get it in a legitimate way. So, presumably, there has been an increase. Special steps have been taken in order to guard against such abuses getting worse.

**Shri Mahanty:** May I know whether the offences are on the increase or on the decrease and whether the penal measures to enforce prohibition has proved a success?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Excise offences have increased; that is, more men have been offending than it used to be in the past.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether the sale of foreign liquor has gone down since the introduction of symbolic restrictions?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** The restrictions are not symbolic. Whether it has gone down or not can be known only at the end of the year.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** May I know what steps, if any, Government have taken to enlist public co-operation in dealing with crimes against prohibition?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Government welcome public co-operation and expect co-operation from every person who is interested in temperance.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** I know that is the general position of Government. But I want to know whether Government are trying to make any deliberate and organised effort to enlist public co-operation. Have the Government taken the initiative on their own?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Government has taken the initiative and would welcome public co-operation, and will be prepared to consider any suggestion that hon. Members may have to make in this connection.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Have they been considering the desirability of removing the anomaly of having dry days during the rains?

#### Kerala Education Bill

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\*710. { Shri Radha Raman.  
Shri Maniyangadan:  
Shri Siddiah:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Education Bill 1957 authorising Government to take over schools was approved by the Government of India; and

(b) if not, whether any communication in this respect was addressed to Kerala Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Normally State Governments consult the Government of India on all Bill which under the provisions of the Constitution have to be reserved for the consideration of the President. The Kerala Education Bill contained provisions for taking over the management and acquisition of aided and recognised schools and payment of compensation. The Kerala Government, accordingly, consulted the Government of India on the provisions of the draft Bill and the views of the Government of India were communicated to them.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether, in view of the controversy which is appearing in the Press as well as in the public with regard to this Bill between the Centre and the Government of Kerala, such communications as are exchanged will be laid before the House?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** I have written to the Chief Minister of Kerala about this, and if he agrees I might place the papers on the Table, but I would not do so except with his consent.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether the Government is aware of

the unfavourable reaction this Bill has avoked in the country as it goes against the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution to own private schools and, if so, has the Government advised the Kerala Government not to proceed with it?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** The Government has expressed its views and communicated them to the Kerala Government.

**Dr. K. B. Menon:** May I know whether the Government has advised the Kerala Education Minister to displace private agencies in the field of education and to deny them their right of appeal from executive orders asking them to hand over the institutions?

**Mr. Speaker:** He has already answered it. There is no advice of that kind; they only wrote to them.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** Even if the Government has done that, it would not like to say so.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Is it not a fact that the Kerala Government has already accepted certain suggestions made by the Government of India regarding the question of compensation while taking over the schools in Kerala?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** They have accepted some of our suggestions, but not all.

**Shri Mahanty:** Will the hon Minister be pleased to state in broad outlines what were the views, offered to the Government of Kerala, more especially in cases where they relate to the controversial aspects of the Bill?

**Shri Narayanankntty Menon:** Sir, I rise on a point of order. Under rule 42 a question may be asked regarding communications between a State Government and the Central Government as to matters of fact. Here a question is asked about details of the communication which, I submit, is not allowed under the rule.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** I think Shri Mahanty wants to know if any

advice was given to the Kerala Government regarding the controversial point.

**Shri V. F. Nayar:** Let the point of order be decided first.

**Mr. Speaker:** The rule is this:

" no question shall be asked except as to matters of fact, and the answer shall be confined to a statement of fact "

The fact is that they have given an advice or suggestion.

**Shri Easwara Iyer:** Sir, I refer you to rule 41(1) which says:

"Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2), a question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public importance within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed "

Then, sub-clause (xx) of 41(2) says:

"it shall not ask for information regarding Cabinet discussions, or advice given to the President in relation to any matter in respect of which there is a constitutional, statutory or conventional obligation not to disclose information "

These may be Cabinet discussions

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is not a Cabinet discussion. It is only an advice or suggestion given by the Central Government to the State Government. So far as this matter is concerned, it does not appear to come under the mischief of any of these rules. But I will leave it to the hon. Minister to decide the matters which he may disclose or may not disclose.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** As I said, we have sent our views to the Kerala Government and some of our suggestions have been accepted but not all. I am not prepared to give in detail what our advice was, what they have accepted, or what they have rejected or found difficult to accept.

**Shri Punnoose:** Sir,...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We will go to the next question. I thought

what the hon. Members wanted has been given by the hon. Minister.

**Shri Punnoose:** I want to put only one question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thought Members wanted to see that the answers or suggestions are not disclosed to the House; that is what the hon. Minister has done. We will go to the next question.

#### Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur

\*711. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether some buildings and materials in Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur were damaged as a result of the storm which took place on the 1st June, 1957; and

(b) whether any inquiry was instituted to assess the loss?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know the actual amount sanctioned for the reconstruction of the damaged buildings?

**Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad:** About Rs. 6 lakhs.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether construction work is being carried out by M.E.S. Departmental labour or contractors?

**Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad:** Some by departmental labour and some by contractors.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What portion?

**Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad:** 26 of the sheds were repaired by engineer troops, 86 by departmentally employed civilian labourers and 52 by civilian contractors.

#### Report on Rural Institutes

\*712. **Shri Mohan Swarup:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Louis Smith, Ford Foundation Consultant on Rural Edu-

cation has submitted to Government any report on his impressions of Rural Institutes in India; and

(b) if so, the main features of the report?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 95.]

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** May I know the main features of that?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** The statement gives all the main features.

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** Can they not be disclosed?

**Mr. Speaker:** The statement is laid on the Table of the House. It is here. The hon. Member may look into it. It has become public property now.

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** May I know whether the Government has any intention to implement that scheme?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member will read that scheme and then ask them.

#### Taxation Reform

\*713. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint a Committee to study State and local finances and recommend structural modifications in them in the light of the needs of finance for development?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** The question of arranging for a closer study of State and local finances in the context of the developmental needs of the country has been thought over in the Finance Ministry from time to time, but no decision has yet been taken to appoint a Committee for this purpose.

**Shri Vajpayee:** May I know when the decision is likely to be taken to appoint the committee?