

Central Mica Advisory Committee was set up on the 31st October, 1946.

(b) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 49].

(c) The Committee advises Government on all matters connected with mica trade and industry.

Shri N. P. Sinha: I find from the statement that there are a good number of representatives of different Associations. May I know, Sir, if these Associations are registered Associations?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, I cannot specifically answer this question, but I presume that these must be registered Associations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nanadas rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called the next question.

CHARGES AGAINST FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY

*804. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the charges of corruption against the former Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been completed;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether he has been fully exonerated;

(c) whether any one else from the Ministry was also involved in the enquiry;

(d) whether the officer concerned is now in Government service and if so, where and in what capacity;

(e) whether he was appointed to that post before he was exonerated by the Enquiry Committee or later;

(f) whether it is a fact that one of the charges against him was that he had built a palace worth lakhs of rupees; and

(g) whether that charge has also been investigated and found baseless?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (g). An investigation is proceeding, and it would be prejudicial to the public interest to disclose at the present stage the information asked for.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact, Sir, that a businessman of South India dealing in cycle manufacture had mentioned in his account books that a sum exceeding a lakh of rupees was paid to the Secretary, and the enquiry originated with that?

Shri Datar: I am not aware.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know the name of the gentleman?

Shri Datar: It is not possible at this stage to mention it.

Shrimati A. Kale: He was supposed to be Secretary of the Commerce Department. Then why not mention it?

Shri Datar: Then the name is known.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Is it a fact that all kinds of influences are being brought to bear upon the Central Government to hush up the inquiry?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): That is absolutely untrue.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, whether the officer is still under employment?

Shri Datar: The officer is still under employment, but not here.

Shri Punnoose: Where is he.....

Shri Damodara Menon: Where is he employed now and what is his present employment?

Shri Datar: He has gone back to the State from which he came.

Shri S. S. More: What is the stage of the inquiry?

Shri Datar: The stage of the inquiry? Almost at the last stage.

Shri S. S. More: That is not an answer. I want to know what particular stage of the inquiry we have reached.

Shri Datar: It is still in the course of investigation by the police.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know, Sir, why, since these charges are pending against the officer concerned, he is not even under suspension?

Shri Datar: It was not considered necessary.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that the case is not yet complete and there is an accusation against him, is it right on the part of the Madras-

Government to appoint him, and if so, whether the Central Government have done anything to see that he was not appointed?

Shri Datar: This question is entirely premature. Mere accusation against a man does not mean that he is guilty.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Government consider the desirability of placing this officer immediately under suspension? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All of you will put questions? I won't allow any place for emotion.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Was the concerned Secretary under house arrest during the pendency of the police enquiry? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Namdhari: On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Was the concerned Secretary under house arrest for sometime during the pendency of the police enquiry? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Datar: I did not follow the question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I do not know why there should be so much of emotion. No doubt it is an interesting question. But questions should be orderly put and answers elicited. What is the question of the hon. Member?

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact, Sir, that the concerned Secretary was under house arrest pending police enquiry?

Shri Datar: Not to my knowledge.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know the qualifications and length of service of this gentleman?

Shri Datar: He is a member of the Indian Civil Service, if I mistake not. I am not aware of the length of service.

Shri Bogawat: What is the reason for not suspending this gentleman?

Shri Datar: The Government have not considered it necessary to place him under suspension?

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether in reverting this officer to the State service, the Central Government had written to the State Government that his conduct had been very reprehensible and that an enquiry was to be instituted?

Dr. Katju: They know it already.

Shri Kelappan: Is that official now the first Member of the Madras Revenue Board?

Shri Datar: I should like to have notice.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know many more persons are involved? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is it a fact that this officer was under suspension at the time the enquiry was started?

Dr. Katju: This is not generally the practice. Every case is taken into consideration on its own merits.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: In this particular case, was the official under suspension when the enquiry started?

Shri Datar: I am not sure that he was under suspension.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: What does the hon. Minister mean when he says 'I am not sure'.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Government make an enquiry.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN TRIPURA

*789. **Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether any development scheme has been undertaken by the Central Government in Tripura?

(b) Has it been publicised in Tripura for people's co-operation?

(c) Has any attempt been made to organise a body of workers according to the directive principle laid down by the Central Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). Development schemes relating to agriculture, road construction, education, medical and public health and welfare of tribal areas have been undertaken. The broad features of these schemes have been given due