

## PANCHAYATS IN TRIPURA

\*1038. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand for the introduction of village panchayats and local bodies with adequate powers for self-government in Tripura; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to introduce village panchayats and local bodies?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) So far no such representation has been received by the local authorities.

(b) Government are already considering the extension to Tripura of suitable Panchayat and Municipal law prevailing in a neighbouring Part A State.

## COURTS

\*1039. **Shri Achuthan:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the policy of Government in the location of Division Benches of High Courts in important centres of the States?

(b) Has any demand come from the public to locate Division Benches of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras?

(c) If so, what attitude have Government taken?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) The practice as sanctioned by the Constitution differs in different High Courts. In some, it is the Chief Justice, in some others, it is the State Government, who have in the first instance to take steps in this matter.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

## FIRE IN AIR HEADQUARTERS

\*1040. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Film Section of the Air Headquarters in

New Delhi was gutted with fire on the 21st August, 1953?

(b) At what time did the Fire Engines of the Delhi Fire Service reach after the fire broke out?

(c) What was the cause of the fire?

(d) What is the actual cost of the films destroyed in the fire?

(e) Do Government propose to lay full facts before the House?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** (a) Yes. A major part of it was gutted.

(b) Within ten minutes.

(c) to (e). The matter is under investigation. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the fire, assess the damage and make recommendations to obviate the possibility of such accidents in future. I shall lay the information on the Table of the House after the proceedings are received.

## RAIDS IN KUTCH

\*1041. **Shri Bhawanji:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to refer to the answer to short notice question No. 100, given on the 18th December, 1952 and state:

(a) the steps that have been taken since then by the Chief Commissioner of Kutch to tighten the Police Administration in Kutch;

(b) the number of raids committed by the dacoits from the Western Pakistan since the 18th December 1952 till now;

(c) the estimate of the looted property and the number of persons killed;

(d) the date and the name of the village where the last raid was committed in Kutch, the estimated amount of the looted property and the number of persons killed;

(e) whether the Government of India have moved the Government of Pakistan for restoring the posses-