

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-

sion of the notorious dacoit Khanji of Kutch along with the notorious dacoit Bhupat of Saurashtra;

(f) if so, the progress achieved in the negotiations; and

(g) if not, whether the Government of India contemplate to move the Government of Pakistan in this direction?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Adequate police parties have been posted at suitable places to patrol the border areas

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

INCOME-TAX REFUND

537. Shri S. G. Parikh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a Press Report that no income-tax refund will be allowed for the dividends received on shares and stocks standing in the names of banks on behalf of their clients; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (b). The Government are not aware of any such press report, but the position is that under section 18(5) of the Income-tax Act, credit for tax paid by a company in respect of profits distributed as dividends to its shareholders, is to be given to the shareholders, i.e. the persons who are registered as members of the company in its Register of Members, irrespective of whether others have beneficial interest in the shares. This interpretation of Section 18(5) is based upon the Bombay High Court decision in the cases of **B. C. Cumbatta** and **Sri Shakti Mills 1948 ITR 748** and **1949 ITR 107** respectively.

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DEPOSITS OF PYRITE IN BIHAR

538. Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to utilise the pyrite deposits in the Shahabad District of Bihar for the extraction of sulphur; and

(b) what has been the result?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Efforts are being made to persuade Sulphuric Acid manufacturing firms to use iron pyrites for the manufacture of Sulphuric acid. It is understood that the Sulphuric Acid plant of the Bihar Government's Superphosphate Factory has been designed for operation on pyrites.

SLATES

539. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state the names of States where there are large deposits of slates in India?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Bharat, Madras, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

AMERICAN WHEAT

540. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of sale proceeds from the American wheat loan realised so far, after deducting necessary expenditure; and

(b) how this money has been utilised?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 73,32,01,898.

(b) For financing the development schemes of the Central and the State Governments.

अस्पृश्यता

५५१. श्री जांगड़े: क्या गृह कार्य मंत्री "अस्पृश्यता के अन्त" के लिये केन्द्रीय विधान