

May I know, Sir, how many of these persons have received the benefit so far and how many are there whose cases are still pending?

Sardar Majithia: About 50 per cent. have already been absorbed in the Indian Army; the others have not been absorbed. About 368 personnel have been absorbed into the Government service. The scheme is already there to settle another 4,000 ex-servicemen on land and that practically accounts for the whole lot.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know how the question of seniority and terms of period of service of these persons has been settled. Has the Government received representations from some persons that they have been treated unjustly on these two scores?

Sardar Majithia: Excepting for one or two cases no other representation has been received and in their cases I can categorically say that full justice has been done to them.

Shri Punnoose: Can I know the total number of persons who have been done away with either because they were unwilling to join the Indian Army or because they were found unsuitable for the Army?

Sardar Majithia: It is very difficult for the Government to keep figures of people who do not want to serve the Government and those who are unsuitable; we forget all about them.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो फौजी विस्थापित लोग हैं पेट्सू में और जिन के लिये प्रबन्ध किया गया था, उसी तरह बाक़ी रियासतों में भी किया गया था और इसी के साथ यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन को फिर से बसाने का कोई प्रबन्ध किया गया है ?

Mr. Chairman: The question relates to P.E.P.S.U. and the scope cannot be allowed to be widened.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the percentage of men absorbed in the Indian Army and the percentage of those who have been released?

Sardar Majithia: I have already stated it to be about 50 per cent. If the hon. Member wants exact figures they are already given in the statement laid on the Table of the House but for the information of the hon. Member I will repeat them: "Out of 8,942 people 4,200 have already been absorbed".

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if the Patiala State army which had a distinctive character of its own has been permitted to retain that character? For instance it had some cavalry; has that cavalry been maintained?

Sardar Majithia: I have not followed the question, Sir. The character is a thing which cannot be changed by any person but if the hon. Member wants to know whether the Units have been kept as they were, well naturally on integration a certain amount of changing had to take place and other people were got to form that Unit and naturally the composition of that Unit is not the same as it used to be when they were entirely under the Patiala State Government.

EXEMPTION OF RULERS OF MERGED STATES FROM TAXES

*718. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the kinds of taxes (including local taxes) from which the Darbari as well as private properties of the Rulers of merged States are exempted; and

(b) the reasons for granting these exemptions?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The following categories of private property of the Rulers have been exempted from income-tax-

(i) the privy purse of the Ruler;

(ii) interest on Government securities held by them; and

(iii) annual rental value of the residences which are declared as their official residence.

Local taxation is a matter governed by the orders of the State Government. The intention is that subject to the terms of the Agreement made with the Ruler as far as possible the position existing immediately before the 15th August 1947 should be maintained.

The Merger and Integration Agreements guarantee the continuance of these exemptions.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether the private property of the Bombay State ex-Rulers have been exempted from local taxes and if so, will the hon. Minister be pleased to quote that part of the agreement which exempts these properties from local taxes?

Dr. Katju: All those agreements have been printed in the form of a book and I imagine that that book was laid on the Table of the House. If my hon. friend desires this particular information I shall get it for him just now.

Shri Dabhi: Sir, I am talking of local taxes and not of other taxes.

Dr. Katju: I require notice.

पंडित सी० एन० मालवीय : क्या अभी जो ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी बिल पास हुआ है, उस ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी से भी उनकी प्रापर्टी एग्जैम्प्ट होगी ?

सभापति महोदय : अभी तो पास नहीं हुआ है ।

पंडित सी० एन० मालवीय : ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी से भी क्या यह प्रापर्टी एग्जैम्प्ट होगी ? कांस्टीट्यूशन में जो एग्जैप्शन ऐक्स रूलर्स को दिया गया है, क्या ऐस्टेट ड्यूटी से भी उन की प्राइवेट प्रापर्टी एग्जैम्प्ट होगी ?

Mr. Chairman: The Estate Duty Bill is yet coming before the House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Under the Agreement and the covenant with the ex-Rulers it is fixed, Sir, that they are bound to furnish certain details for their properties both moveable as well as immovable. May I know if it is possible for the hon. Minister to lay a statement of such property on the Table of the House?

Dr. Katju: I shall have to make inquiries on this topic and as far as possible I shall meet the wishes of the House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the tax-free properties now held by these ex-Rulers will be inherited also as tax-free properties?

Dr. Katju: That may be a matter which might come up in connection with the Estate Duty Bill but generally the individuals receiving the privy purse, will also succeed to the tax-free properties.

श्री आर० एस० तिबारी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि राजाओं से जो सन्धि पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर हुए हैं यह कुछ लिमिटेड समय के लिये हैं या आजीवन काल के लिये हैं ?

डा० काटजू : वे मुस्तकिल हैं, जब तक यह कांस्टीट्यूशन कायम है, राजाओं के लिये और उनकी औलाद के लिये भी जिनको कि प्रीवी पर्स मिलेगा और जिनको प्रसीडेंट ऐक्स रूलर मुकर्रर फरमावेंगे ।

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि जो सम्मति कर से छूट राजाओं को मिली हुई है वह इन राजाओं के जीवन तक ही चलेगी या पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी तक चलेगी और यदि चलेगी तो क्या सरकार इस पर पुनर्विचार करने की कोशिश कर रही है ?

डा० काटजू : पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी चलेगी । आप सवाल मुझ से क्या पूछ रहे हैं ? कांस्टी-

टुएण्ट असेम्बली के सामने तीन वर्ष पहले यह सब बहस हो चुकी है। सरदार पटेल ने बार बार कहा है, सब मामला तय हो चुका है।

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know, Sir, whether this Agreement about exemption is for the life-time of the Ruler or whether it is for all time?

Dr. Katju: This is unfortunately what has been put in the national language at times. The answer is that they are for generation to generation.

WOMEN'S SAVINGS MOVEMENT

*719. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how far Women's Savings Movement is getting response from non-official bodies;

(b) how much money has so far been received through this campaign;

(c) how much grant Government have sanctioned to the participating organisations;

(d) how the grant will be distributed among the participating organisations; and

(e) how many all-India bodies and organisations have been requested to participate in this savings movement?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) to (e). As I have stated in reply to earlier questions on this subject, viz., starred questions. No 152 and 478 answered on the 5th and 13th August 1953 respectively, a Women's Savings Week was observed at a few places in March 1953 and resulted in a collection of Rs. 42 lakhs. in view of the encouraging results of that week it has been decided to put the Women's Savings Campaign on a more regular footing and a non-official Central Advisory Committee has been constituted recently to assist in guiding and co-ordinating this work and advising Government and the various women's and other social organisations in the country. The first

meeting of the Committee was held on the 3rd of this month and it is proposed to start on an intensive campaign under the aegis of this Committee from October next. It is proposed to select 100 organizations of various types for the first year as authorised agents to mobilise Small Savings. These organizations will not get any grant but will be entitled to the usual commission of 1½ per cent. on the sale of 12-Year National Savings Certificates.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know the names of the members of the Central Advisory Committee?

Shri A. C. Guha: This was published in the papers in an official notification. Anyhow I shall read out the names: Chairman: Mrs. Hannah Sen; Members: Mrs. M. K. Vellodi, Mrs. D. J. Majumdar, Shrimati Gnanakumari Heda, Shrimati Gulestan Billimoria, Shrimati Nallamuthu Ramamurthy, Shrimati Leela Damodara Menon, Shrimati Renuka Ray (she has since, I think, refused to accept the membership and Miss Meera Dutt Gupta has been proposed), Shrimati Pushpalata Das, Shrimati Bharatidevi Ranga, Shrimati Vimlabai Deshmukh, Shrimati Pushpavati Mehta, Shrimati P. Naidu and Kumari Premvati Thapar.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: What was the decision taken by the Central Advisory Committee?

Shri A. C. Guha: That was also a recent matter and published in the papers. The Committee passed certain resolutions, and most important of them is that a target of Rs. 8 crores has been fixed to be collected through the agency of this Committee. And they have selected nine Women's organisations whose subsidiary or affiliated bodies will be allowed to be enlisted as authorised agents for this purpose.

शाला अचिन्त राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री कृपा कर के बतला सकेंगे कि कौन से प्रदेश हैं जहाँ इस मूवमेन्ट ने ज्यादा प्रगति की है ?