

**Shri Tyagi:** I require notice.

**Shri Velayudhan:** In view of the fact that there are divisions like Mahars and Mahrattas, will Government consider the caste of the Scheduled Castes also and give them a chance in this Academy?

**Shri Tyagi:** Not in the case of officers. In the case of other ranks, Scheduled Castes are being encouraged, whenever recruitment is made on the basis not of competition but of selection, by Recruiting Officers etc. They have been directed to encourage enrolment of Scheduled Castes.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Am I to understand by this that so far no Scheduled Caste candidates have been taken?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

\*1509. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the educational institutions, established under any endowment or trust, which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institutions and the administration of which has been taken over by the Central Government; and

(b) the nature of religious instruction that is imparted in these institutions?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):**  
(a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

#### VISIT OF THE FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR

\*1510. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the purpose of the visit of the French Secretary of State for Air, to India?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The French Secretary of State for Air was invited by the Government of India to visit Delhi to discuss the further purchase of French aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** May I know whether we have any French aircraft in our Air Force and whether they have been considered satisfactory compared to other makes?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We purchased some last year and they are considered very satisfactory.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Has this mission been successful so far as we are concerned?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The new purchase?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** The visit of the French Secretary of State for Air. Has his visit been successful as far as we are concerned?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The matter has not been finalised thus far. Yet, it has been successful so far.

**Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** May I know whether there are any French nationals in our Air Force and, if so, what is their number?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have not come across anyone or heard of anyone.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Do the French Military planes pass over India on their way to Indo-China for bombing, and did the French Air Secretary ask for permission to pass over India?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It has nothing to do with this question.

#### GRANTS-IN-AID FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

\*1511. **Shri Katham:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what amount has been asked for by the West Bengal Government under Article 275 of the Constitution for the development of the Scheduled Tribes for 1954-55, and how much has been granted?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** The West Bengal Government have not asked for any amount so far. A sum of Rs. 12.50 lakhs has, however, been provisionally allotted to that Government.