

of India specifying that in the case of one union in a particular Department the only stumbling block to giving recognition will be the question of having outsiders on it?

Shri Satish Chandra: There are practical difficulties. It has recently been decided, and the All-India Defence Employees' Federation has been intimated that this will be our policy in future.

U.P.S.C.

*1019. **Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it takes, sometimes, nearly fourteen to fifteen months for an applicant to be informed by the U.P.S.C. about the fate of his application?

(b) Who is responsible for this inordinate delay?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The average time taken for communicating to candidates the final result of their applications is less than nine months. In 27 cases out of 293 in 1953, the time taken was more than nine months, including nine cases which took fourteen months or more.

(b) Every possible care is taken by the Union Public Service Commission and also by the appointing authorities to ensure expeditious selection and appointment of candidates. Some delay is, however, inevitable on account of the processes involved in making careful selection.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि बहुत सी एप्लीकेशन्स के जवाब अभी तक उन को नहीं मिले हैं, मेरे पास उन के नाम हैं और मैं मंत्री महोदय को बतला सकता हूँ ?

Shri Datar: I shall be obliged if the hon. Member gives the names of such instances. My information is that all the applicants are duly intimated.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the inordinate delay is due

to the lack of the full quota of members of the U.P.S.C.?

Shri Datar: No, that is not the reason.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that no intimation is given to a candidate who is not called for interview, or who is not appointed?

Shri Datar: My information is that intimation is given to all those persons, including those whose applications have been finally rejected.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: That is always the complaint. Next question.

MERGER OF BILASPUR

*1020. **Shri Anandchand:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government contemplate to give an opportunity to the people of Bilaspur to place their views about the future of Bilaspur before the States Reorganisation Commission before taking any steps to complete its merger with Himachal Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): As was informed in this House on the 4th December last, Government have already decided that Bilaspur should be merged in Himachal Pradesh. Necessary steps to bring about such a merger are being taken.

I may also add that a Bill to this effect will be introduced in the other House either today or at the earliest time.

Shri Anandchand: In view of the Agreement entered into by the Government of India with the Ruler of Bilaspur on 15th August 1948, which stipulated an obligation on the part of Government to administer Bilaspur as a separate unit, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether this term has now been dropped from the Agreement or modified in any manner?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of any conditions under which the Government of India were bound to keep it as a separate unit. To keep it as a separate unit is administratively very difficult.

Shri Anandchand: Are Government aware that an overwhelming majority of the people of Bilaspur are totally opposed to the merger of their State in Himachal Pradesh, and a petition has already been submitted to the States Ministry, recording their protest, and signed by nearly fifty thousand people?

Shri Datar: That is not true.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know the total area of this State, and also the area submerged by the river valley project there?

Shri Datar: The total area, if I mistake not, is 29 square miles.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What is the total area submerged by the river valley project?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of that.

श्री राधेलाल ध्यास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि बिलासपुर स्टेट के मर्जर के विरोध में एक आन्दोलन वहाँ के भूतपूर्व नरेश के द्वारा किया जा रहा है और उस सम्बन्ध में आप को जो आवेदनपत्र मिलता है वह टाईप और साइकलोस्टाइल उन्हीं के मकान पर होता है और वही लोगों से दस्त-खत कराये जाते हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Anandchand: Is it a fact that the Punjab Government have consistently opposed the idea of the merger of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh?

Shri Datar: That question is entirely irrelevant. Bilaspur is not going to be merged in Punjab.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may give the information, if he has.

Shri Datar: I have no information.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
IN PUNJAB

*1021. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grant given to the Punjab State for the betterment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately for 1953-54; and

(b) the main items for which this grant is to be spent?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No grant has been made for the betterment of Scheduled Castes as no detailed schemes have been received from the State Government. A sum of Rs. 6.0 lakhs has, however, been allotted to the State for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and development of Scheduled Areas. Out of this a sum of Rs. 3.0 lakhs has already been sanctioned and the balance will be paid before the close of the financial year on the receipt of full details regarding the actual expenditure etc. incurred by the State Government on the various schemes including that met from their own funds.

(b) Educational and Economic development and provision of medical and communication facilities.

Shri Ram Dass: May I know whether the State Government have also contributed to these schemes?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of what they have contributed, but we have not received their detailed schemes.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know what sums have been sanctioned for the development of the Lahaul and Spiti area?

Shri Datar: There are different sums for different kinds of work. If the hon. Member mentions any particular work, I can give the answer.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know the full amount that has been sanctioned for the different categories of development?