

**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?

**Shri Datar:** So far as the amount for the purpose of eradication of untouchability is concerned, a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been sanctioned for payment to the Punjab Government.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** May I know, Sir, whether the items under which the amount is being spent in respect of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are uniform throughout the country or they differ from State to State?

**Shri Datar:** The items are generally the same. The details might differ here and there.

#### REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

**\*1022. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of money sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration from 1st December, 1953 up-to-date for distribution as loans, among displaced persons?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** The total amount of loans sanctioned by the Administration from 1st December 1953 to 28th February 1954 is approximately Rs. 82.73 lakhs.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** What part of this sanctioned amount has so far been distributed among displaced persons?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Rs. 55.17 lakhs have been distributed during these three months.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** May I know, Sir, how much of this amount has been allotted to refugees in West Bengal?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have not got the figures here.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know, Sir, whether this loan, to which reference has been made, is granted only to East Bengal refugees or it is granted to West Pakistan refugees also?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** These figures are in respect of loans granted to refugees from both sides.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it not a fact that so far as loan to West Pakistan refugees is concerned, the loan register has been closed and no application is entertained now?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The previous applications which were pending are now being sanctioned and payment is also being made on account of this.

**Shri Gidwani:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the unanimous recommendation of the RFA and the Advisory Board regarding the reduction of rate of interest and if so, what is their decision?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think the hon. Member may please have some patience on this point.

#### GOVERNMENT RULES OF BUSINESS

**\*1023. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised Rules of Business examined by the Committee of selected Secretaries, have been finalised;

(b) if so, whether they have been approved by the Cabinet;

(c) whether a copy of the revised Rules will be placed on the Table of the House; and

(d) whether necessary action has been taken on the same?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Preparation of the Revised Rules of Business is still in progress.

(b) to (d). Do not arise at this stage.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, when this act of revision was taken up?

**Shri Datar:** This act of revision was taken up about two years ago.