

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). As there was some doubt whether Article 348 of the Constitution applied to Part C States in its entirety, provision has been made in the Bill now pending before the House of the People to make Article 348 of the Constitution applicable to all Part C States in its entirety and to bring the Part C States on the same plane as occupied by Parts A and B States in regard to this matter.

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जब संविधान में हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों को ही राज भाषा की मान्यता प्रदान की गयी है तो फिर इस आकस्मिक परिवर्तन का क्या कारण है और क्यों यह अंग्रेजी भाषा इन राज्यों पर लादी जा रही है ?

Dr. Katju: May I say with respect that this very matter is going to be discussed on the Bill which is before the House just after the question hour and, therefore, it may lead to a saving of the time if you will not allow any supplementaries?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Next question.

STERLING BALANCES

***270. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the position of our sterling balances as at the end of December, 1952 and in January 1954?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Our sterling balances amounted to Rs. 710.75 crores at the end of December 1952 and Rs. 734.32 crores at the end of January 1954.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the balance standing to the credit of No. 2 Account and that standing to the credit of No. 1 Account?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: These balances are treated as confidential.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the amount available that can be drawn by the

Government of India from No. 2 Account? In other words, I want to know the amount available for transfer from No. 2 Account to No. 1 Account.

Mr. Speaker: It comes to disclosure of confidential information.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how much of the reduction in sterling balances is accounted for by the import of capital goods and how much by the import of consumer goods?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: There is no category as 'consumer goods' or 'capital goods', but the categories, as available, are 'plants and machinery', 'industrial raw materials' and 'essential and non-essential consumer goods'. Therefore it is not possible to give the quantitative figures for consumer and capital goods.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Minister of Finance in the British House of Commons that India is not going to draw on her sterling balances hereafter?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I am not aware of that statement, but it is a fact that we have drawn much less than what is stipulated in the sterling balances agreement.

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of order. This House has got full control over the ways and means as well as the balances of revenue and expenditure accounts. I want to know why it is not being disclosed to this House as the sterling balances, about which a secret has been made, come under the ways and means. I think it should be disclosed as it is our inherent right to know the position.

Mr. Speaker: He put it as a question and not as a point of order.

Shri T. N. Singh: It is our right to know this information. Why should it not be disclosed to the House?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The total is disclosed, but it is only the distribution between the two accounts which it is not desirable to disclose in the public interest. It is

for the House to decide whether to force the Government to disclose something if Government feels it is not in the public interest to disclose. Today we are well off; a time may come when we may not be so well off, in which case various currents may enter into the trade of the country and the balance of payments, which may be prejudicial to the country.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know, Sir, what part of the reduction of the balances accounts is accounted for by importation of plant and machinery and what part by importation of non-essential goods?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: If I have to answer the question in that form, all we can give the hon. Member is the value of the plant and machinery imported in any particular year that he cares to know—whether it is for 1951, 1952 or 1953—but which part of it has accounted for the decrease in the balances I cannot say.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

*271. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in September 1953 seven soldiers of the Indian Army attached to 362 Field Co. of the Madras Group of Engineers died on account of a landslide in Assam; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made proper arrangements for the prompt payment of adequate compensation to the bereaved families?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Five (not seven) soldiers of the Indian Army attached to 362 Field Company of the Madras Engineer Group died of landslide in Assam on the 19th September 1953.

(b) Payment of terminal balance of pay has already been made to the heirs of the two of the deceased and enquiries about the heirs of the other three are in the hands of local civil authorities. The Controller of Defence Accounts has also authorised the Record Officer to pay

the provisional award of family pensions to all the five families.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Is the computation of family pension in such cases of accidents governed by the ordinary rules, or are there special provisions?

Sardar Majithia: They are governed by the rules of the Indian Army.

ALL-INDIA MUSLIM CONVENTION ALIGARH

*272. **Shri Raghbir Sahai:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 797 on the 9th December, 1953 and state what action Government have taken or propose to take against the persons who made objectionable speeches at the All-India Muslim Convention held at Aligarh?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The Government of West Bengal detained Syed Badruddoza on 28th January 1954 under the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, and ordered the forfeiture of printed copies of his Presidential Address. The Government of Uttar Pradesh also ordered the forfeiture of the pamphlet containing the speech of the *Serdar Majlis Istaq-baliya*, Muslim Convention. Both these orders of forfeiture are effective all over the country.

Ishaq Ilmi was arrested on 29th January 1954. He is standing his trial on charges under Sections 124A and 153A Indian Penal Code in connection with a speech delivered by him at the Convention.

Shri Raghbir Sahai: Presuming that the hon. Minister has gone through all the objectionable speeches made at that Convention, may I ask him if he found any genuine grievance on the part of Muslims living in India?

Shri Datar: There were very few genuine grievances.

Shri Raghbir Sahai: What part did the Aligarh University play in that Convention, and was the Vice-Chancellor of that University asked for any clarification?