

(c) Rs. 31,284/- during the year 1953-54.

**SUBMERSION OF LAND BY BHAKRA RESERVOIR**

\*183. { **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:**  
**Shri Anandchand:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what area is likely to be covered by the reservoir proposed to be formed at Bhakra, and what is the number of people affected;

(b) whether the scheme to resettle the displaced persons have been worked out;

(c) what part of the Bhakra Nangal Project was proposed to be transferred to the Punjab; and

(d) whether any settlement has been reached among State Governments concerned?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) (i) 42,394 acres. (ii) 27,000 (approximately)

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Bhakra Control Board.

(c) and (d). In consultation with the State Governments concerned, the Central Government are appointing an expert Committee to go into the matter.

MAHE

\*184. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Bogawat:**  
**Shri Ajit Singh:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French authorities have surrendered power in Mahe; and

(b) if so, whether the French Government have communicated their decision to the Government of India?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) No official communication was received from the French Government in this regard.

GYANGTSE TRAGEDY

\*185. { **Shri S. N. Das:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Jangde:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances in which the fort on the bank of the river Amchung facing the Tibetan trading town of Gyangtse collapsed;

(b) the total number of Indian casualties; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to render relief to the sufferers?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) The river Nyang Chu was in spate on the 17th July. In the early hours of the morning the flood waters came all too suddenly and within a few minutes the water rose up to 15 feet resulting in the collapse of the building.

(b) According to information available so far—45 individuals and 18 families.

(c) Our Trade Agent at Yatung was instructed to proceed at once to the scene of tragedy. Accompanied by Officer Commanding Escorts and a few troops, and equipped with a wireless set, rations, medicines and clothes, he left Yatung on the 18th July and reached Gyantse on the 23rd, where he met the Indian survivors who had been given shelter by the local Tibetan agent and the Nepali Wakil. The Government of India have also placed at the disposal of the Chinese authorities gifts of foodstuffs and clothes worth Rs. 50,000 for distribution amongst the flood victims. A sum of Rs. 13,000 has been sanctioned for the relief work for the trade Agency staff and two relief funds for victims have also been started—one by the Governor of Bengal and the other by the Maharaja of Sikkim. The Political Officer, Sikkim, with a Medical Officer and an Engineer, is on his way to Gyantse to assess the damage.