

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All the Members were not given the opportunity of visiting abroad. Dr. Prasad took advantage of one of his foreign visits to visit the mechanisation centres in U.K. and especially the Sheffield centre of machanisation of coal mining. While the meeting was going to take place, unfortunately he fell ill and, therefore, the Committee had to be postponed to learn from his experiences.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether this mechanisation is confined only to coal mines or whether other mines like mica are included?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This question is related to mechanisation of coal mines only.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES FOR MANIPUR
AND TRIPURA

*1434. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state the action Government propose to take on the demand of the people of Manipur and Tripura for setting up Legislative Assemblies in their respective States?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The future of these important frontier States is under consideration of the States Reorganisation Commission and pending their report Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Shri Rishang Keishing: The people of Manipur and Tripura have been demanding from the Central Government the setting up of Legislative Assemblies in their respective States since 1949. May I therefore know what this demand of the people of these two States has to do with the report of the States Reorganisation Commission?

Dr. Katju: Since 1949, five years have elapsed, and this question probably must have been discussed when the Constitution was passed. The States Reorganisation Commission has been charged with the duty of considering the whole question of reorganisation of States, and I think

that will be a suitable opportunity considering this matter. My hon. friend knows very well the position occupied by these two frontier States. Now that we have waited for five years, I think that we might wait for another six or nine months because their report will be in hand by the 30th June next year and then we can see the entire picture and take a decision.

ORDNANCE OFFICERS (CIVILIANS)

*1435. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Ordnance Officers (Civilians) in the Army Ordnance Corps at the time of the appointment of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee;

(b) whether the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee examined the cases of Ordnance Officers (Civilians);

(c) if so, the recommendations of that Committee; and

(d) how far they have been implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) About 700.

(b) and (c). The cadre of Ordnance Officers (Civilians) was manned by Indians and, as such, the Committee did not have to go through their cases. The Committee, however, recommended that when the peace strength of the I.A.O.C. (now A.O.C.) and the proportion of that strength to be filled by civilian personnel are fixed, the selection of Ordnance Officers (Civilians) as are to be permanently retained should be made through the Federal (now Union) Public Service Commission, and a senior officer of the A.O.C. should be associated with the Commission for this purpose. Confirmations of Ordnance Officers (Civilian) are, accordingly being made on the basis of merit as adjusted by a