

this arises at all. If it is a charge that Government is breaking its word, Government will not accept it in the slightest, and talk to anybody on the ground that they have been false about it. So far as we are concerned, it is a question of honour. If it is a moral question to them, it is a moral question to the Government, and to me personally as Prime Minister. I have been in these negotiations at every stage, and I say it is completely wrong. There may be misunderstanding, of course, but it is completely wrong to say that at any time there was an assurance that this would be done. The assurance was that every avenue would be explored. It may be that the people may be mistaken about it. What is a Committee of this House or a Judge, or a Court set up about it, going to do? We are prepared even now to consider the matter *de novo*. We know what was said. It must be accepted. If they challenge our *bona fides*, there is an end of it. We cannot talk to each other if people consider each other liars in this connection. It is amazing that during the last three years this has been said repeatedly. My hon. colleague has quoted some letters. I have written some three, four or five long letters myself. This is a six or seven year old matter. I must state with a feeling of extreme distress that these matters should arise in our public life. I do not understand it. This is not the kind of public life I am used to.

Shri Velayudhan: Apart from the promise or breaking it, I want to ask whether Government is aware of the reasons for the strike other than the breaking of the pledge?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said we have seen nothing more than what has appeared in the press, and my friend can see that there are a number of other demands lumped together with this main demand.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir...

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need proceed further with the matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ORDNANCE STORES

*1387. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 288 asked on the 3rd March, 1952 and state:

(a) whether any packages are still lying unopened in Ordnance Depots at various centres; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to complete their opening and re-packing?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) It is expected to complete their opening and re-packing by the 31st October 1953.

INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*1388. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Benches of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal functioning on the 31st March, 1952;

(b) the total number of cases pending before them on that date; and

(c) the number of cases decided by them during the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) Eight. Two at Bombay, two at Madras and 1 each at Calcutta, Delhi, Allahabad and Patna.

(b) Bombay Benches . . .	3,285
Madras Benches . . .	1,630
Calcutta Bench . . .	2,264
Delhi Bench . . .	1,634
Allahabad Bench . . .	725
Patna Bench . . .	811
TOTAL . . .	10,349

(c) 10,074.

ALLOWANCES OF M. PS.

*1389. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of introducing a Bill which will determine the salaries and allowances which Members of either House of Parliament shall be entitled to receive in the present session of Parliament has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) and (b) Government have the matter under consideration, and they are awaiting the recommendations of the Joint Committee of Parliament appointed by the Speaker on the 6th June, 1952 to examine the question of salaries and/or allowances to be paid to the Members of Parliament.