

(b) the steps so far taken for the preparation of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise in the various cantonments in India and by which date new Cantonment Boards on the basis of adult franchise are likely to be constituted; and

(c) the reason for delay in forming new cantonments on the basis of adult franchise?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Elections were last held in 29 Cantonments in 1946 and in the remaining 26 in 1951.

(b) The Cantonments Electoral Rules, 1945 were amended in April, 1950 so as to provide for the preparation of Electoral Rolls on the basis of adult franchise.

Elections on the basis of adult franchise have already been held in 26 Cantonments. Electoral Rolls have also been prepared on this basis in the remaining 29 Cantonments.

New Cantonment Boards will be constituted shortly.

(c) Elections in 29 Cantonments, which are due, had to be postponed in deference to the general desire of the residents of Cantonments for the revival of the ward system.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether the Government had appointed a Committee to take up the revision of the Cantonment Act, and if so, what were the recommendations of that Committee and has the Government any intention to implement the recommendations of that Committee?

Shri Gopalaswami: I have not the information definitely. I should not like to be inaccurate. If the hon. Member will put down a question, I will tell him in what stage that matter is.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Is it the intention of the Government to separate the civil population areas and to bring them under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Act?

Shri Gopalaswami: At present, so far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, there is no such intention.

सेठ अचल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि एलेक्टोरल रोलस का काम कब तक समाप्त हो जायगा ?

[Seth Achal Singh: Will the hon. Minister please state by when will the work of preparing Electoral Rolls be completed?]

Shri Gopalaswami: It is expected that they will be completed before the end of the year.

CANTONMENT OF NASIRABAD

***404. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the implementation of the water supply scheme in the cantonment of Nasirabad;

(b) what amount was sanctioned by the Government of India for the purpose; and

(c) by which date the scheme is likely to materialise?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) and (b). The water supply installation has been completed. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,31,000 was sanctioned by Government therefor.

(c) The scheme is already in operation but the two supply wells of 60 ft. depth provided in the scheme could not be dug deeper than 23 and 40 ft., respectively, due to rocky strata at these levels. As it is the expert opinion that further deepening will not yield additional water, the question as to whether the present yield will meet expected requirements is being examined.

Bidi LICENCES

***405. Shri N. S. Nair:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Central Government introduced A-Class and B-Class licences for Bidi manufacturers and later on withdrew the same in 1951?

(b) If so, have Government refunded the deposits?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) When an excise on bidis was proposed in the Finance Bill, 1951, and was brought into immediate effect from the 1st March 1951, by a declaration made in the Bill under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931, bidi manufacturers were required to take out a licence in Form L-4 under the Central Excise Rules, 1944, on payment of a fee of Rs. 50 per year. Since, however, the tax was introduced in the middle of the year, the smallest class of bidi manufacturers were asked to pay the concessional rate of Rs. 37/8/- for the year 1951.

When the Finance Bill, 1951, was passed into an Act about two months later (i.e., on the 27th April 1951), the excise duty which had been provisionally introduced on bidi was