

(b) Have Government made any enquiry into the police excesses alleged to have been committed?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No. I invite the attention of the hon. Member to the statement made by my predecessor on the 5th March 1952 in reply to a question by Shri A. C. Guha.

(b) Does not arise.

INFANT MORTALITY

***547. Shrimati Khongmen:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state which State has the highest percentage of infant mortality in India?

(b) What are the causes of infant mortality?

(c) What is the number of Child Welfare Centres in different States run by the Central Government, if any?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Information is available only as regards Part 'A' States and the Part 'C' States of Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg. Out of these States the State of Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate of infant mortality in India.

(b) The diseases mostly responsible for infant mortality are pneumonia, dysentery, diarrhoea, enteritis, malnutrition, congenital debility, convulsions, meningitis and smallpox.

(c) The Central Government are not running any Child Welfare Centres in the States. The number of Child Welfare Centres in Part 'C' States is 79.

LAWS IN THE ANDAMANS

***548. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what steps Government have already taken or propose to take to remove all penal laws, regulations and conventions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The question of making suitable changes in the existing laws and regulations in the Andamans, including the repeal of those which have become obsolete, is under the consideration of the Government of India. In the meanwhile, none of the old penal laws or regulations is actually being enforced in the Islands.

EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENTS OF THE ANDAMANS IN GOVERNMENT POSTS

***549. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether any discrimination is

made against the inhabitants of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the matter of recruitment to administrative or other Government posts and in the matter of emoluments paid to such employees?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): No distinction is made except that persons recruited from the mainland are given a special pay of 33½ per cent. of pay (subject to a maximum of Rs. 300 p.m.).

EDUCATION AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE ANDAMANS

***550. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many elementary schools, high schools and hospitals are there in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and what is the number of teachers in the schools and doctors, compounders and nurses in the hospitals?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I lay on the Table of the House a copy of a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 29.]

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN RAYALASEEMA

***551. Shri Eswara Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-Food Minister and the Commander-in-Chief had submitted any report on Rayalaseema famine situation after their tour in that area;

(b) if so, their opinions on the situation there and the relief measures proposed by them; and

(c) how far the Government have carried out their proposals?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Mr Munshi prepared a report on the Rayalaseema food situation. A statement showing the suggestions made by him and decisions taken thereon by the Government of India is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 30.]

The Commander-in-Chief did not submit any report.

IMPORT OF TRACTORS

88. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors imported into India during the year 1950-51 (i) on Government account, and (ii) on Private account;

(b) the approximate cost under each head and the countries from which they were imported; and

(c) what is the policy regarding import of tractors for 1952-53?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A statement showing the total number of tractors imported into India during 1950-51, the countries of their origin and approximate cost is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 31.]

The number of tractors imported on behalf of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture during the same period was 117 as indicated below:—

Country of origin	Quantity	Value
		Rs.
United Kingdom	41	3,56,774
U.S.A.	76	45,34,168
TOTAL	117	48,90,942

(c) According to the existing policy which is for the present valid up to end of June, import of tractors of less than 15 H.P. at the draw bar and those operated on petrol is completely banned as such tractors are not considered suitable for general agricultural operations under Indian conditions. Subject to these over-riding considerations licences for import of tractors are issued freely provided the importers concerned fulfil the following qualifications:—

- (i) Importers should be accredited agents of the manufacturers of the tractors to be imported;
- (ii) Importers should have adequate after-sale service facilities and trained service engineers, competent to undertake proper repairs;
- (iii) Importers should import 15 per cent. of the value of their tractor imports as spare parts;
- (iv) The tractors to be imported should be duly covered by an official test certificate from the Government of the country of origin.

The licensing policy for the half year July–December, 1952 is still under consideration and will be announced shortly.

COMMERCIALISATION OF RAILWAY COLLIERIES

89. Shri N. P. Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government Railway Collieries are proposed to be commercialised and a joint stock company formed?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for the same and had the Parliament been consulted or not?

(c) What changes are likely to occur in respect of the services of the Colliery Superintendents, Colliery Managers and others?

(d) Will they be retained on the same pay and privileges of leave, pensions, provident funds, etc., which they are entitled to now?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The question is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken.

(b) to (d). Do not arise at present.

PLAINS TRIBAL AREAS OF ASSAM

90. Shri Brohmo-Choudhury: (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assam Government submitted to the Union Government a Scheme of Works for the improvement of the Plains Tribal Areas of Assam and requested for a grant under Section 275 of the Constitution for the working of the Scheme and if so, what was the amount?

(b) Has the Union Government paid the amount to the Assam Government?

(c) If not, when would the amount be paid to them for the said purpose?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes; the cost of the Scheme submitted by the State Government for 1952-53 is Rs. 22.6 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration and orders are expected to be issued at an early date.

HINDI EQUIVALENT NAMES FOR RAILWAYS

91. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have arrived at any decision in regard to the Hindi equivalent names of the recently constituted six different groups of the Indian Railways; and