

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 10th June, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOREIGNERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

*651. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of foreign nationals who are serving the Government of India as officers either in a temporary capacity or otherwise?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The number of Civilian Non-Indian Officers serving the Government of India is 660. Of these 347 are employed in the Defence Services, 198 in the Railways and the rest in other Departments.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether any special salaries are given to these foreign officers in the Government of India service? Are they enjoying any special salaries and allowances other than the grades fixed for the officers of the Government of India?

Dr. Katju: Many of them are on contract service; many of them are in temporary service; and some of them are in permanent service. I cannot say anything about salaries without notice.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this list includes those who are taken on the Indo-American Agreement programme?

Dr. Katju: Some of them are in that programme.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether an officer taken under the Indo-American Agreement, one Mr. Slocom.....

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Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Velayudhan:.....that officer is given about Rs. 10,000 as salary per mensem all found?

Dr. Katju: My hon. friend must give notice of that question.

Shri A. C. Guha: As regards the foreigners employed in the defence services, may I know how many of them are in command service and how many are technicians and how many are for training purposes?

Dr. Katju: I require notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Is it the policy of the Government to effect complete Indianisation of these services?

Dr. Katju: Apart from the people who are on contract service, the people who are in permanent service are getting the same salaries.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How many such foreign nationals in Indian Government service get emoluments higher than those of the President of India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The hon. Minister has stated that there are some foreigners who are employed under the Indo-American Agreement programme. Could he give more precise information on this point?

Dr. Katju: If the hon. Member will give notice, I will give precise information.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government of India have got complete control over these officers serving with them, or do they take instructions from the Technical Aid Administration here?

Dr. Katju: I imagine my hon. friend is only asking an argumentative question. The answer probably is open to him. He knows it. Officers who enter public corporations are governed by their rules and they take orders from superior

officers under whom they are serving and directly from the Government of India also.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question. This question has taken four minutes.

PRESS COMMISSION

*652. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of working journalists in its Session held at Calcutta demanded the appointment of a Press Commission by Government; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) As stated by the President in his Address in Parliament, a Press Commission will be appointed in a few weeks.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Minister will be able to give the scope and nature of this Commission?

Dr. Katju: I hope to make that quite clear in the order by which the Press Commission is appointed. We will give them the terms of reference, and all that information will be available at the suitable time.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this Press Commission will have any power over the press legislation existing in the country?

Dr. Katju: It will have no power at all. The Commission is only appointed for advisory purposes.

Shri Punnoose: Is the hon. Minister in a position to state the interests that are going to be represented on the Commission?

Dr. Katju: Every interest concerned with the press.

Shri Velayudhan: The Minister mentioned that the Commission is going to have no power. May I know why the Commission is going to be appointed if it is going to have no power?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member misunderstands the reply and then frames his question.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government has taken a census with regard to the number of

papers and magazines published in India, and also the number of journalists employed in those presses, and also the reading clientele?

Dr. Katju: I have told the hon. Member just now that in framing our terms of reference we will take all material factors into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: I think that when the Commission is appointed the terms of reference will be before the House, and it is premature to ask any further questions.

TRIBAL AREAS OF ASSAM

*653. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 1265 asked on 25th September, 1951, and state:

(a) the main development schemes in hand, at present in the tribal areas of Assam;

(b) when they are likely to be completed; and

(c) the total financial grants made for them in the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1].

(b) This information is not yet available with the Government of India.

(c) Rs. 49 lakhs.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know the amount to be spent under the heads Education and Public Health?

Dr. Katju: The schemes which have been framed do not specify the allocation under different heads. This is really a question for the Assam Government.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know the amount spent in the previous two years?

Dr. Katju: I can give the figure for 1951-52: it was Rs. 16,74,000.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the Government has any scheme for the planned development of these tribal areas?

Dr. Katju: That is what we propose to do, and, as the hon. Member is aware, we held a conference, and we have worked out general rules for guidance.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether any development of roads has