

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