

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

been taken in hand during the current year?

Dr. Katju: I do not find that under any particular head, but that is a matter which is under consideration.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether any scheme of priority has been determined, and, if so, what it is?

Dr. Katju: There is no question of priority. There are different heads, and I suppose it will be a march all along the front.

Shri Natawadkar: May I know whether these schemes are worked out in co-operation with the tribes of Assam?

Dr. Katju: Yes, Sir; we want co-operation from the tribes in the first instance.

POST-CARD VENDING MACHINE

*654. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new model of Automatic Post-card vending machine has been received in India for experimental purposes; and

(b) if so, whether it is being tried anywhere?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) It has only just arrived.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there is a condition imposed that if the machine is found to be defective, the country of its origin will take it back?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is still on trial. It was on trial before also. If it is found to be unworkable, of course, it will be returned.

Sardar Hukam Singh: It was on trial before also—that was a Swiss machine; do I understand that this is the same machine, after the removal of defects?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is from the same company.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know how many machines were ordered from the Swiss firm?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a prototype of the machine, and it has just come. It is being tried. If it is found to be satisfactory, we will order new ones.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Am I to understand that only one machine was ordered?

Shri Raj Bahadur: One machine has come.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is the machine likely to effect any saving to Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Keeping in view the amount of labour involved in refilling the machine, collecting coins, etc., I think we cannot predict that there will be at all any saving.

TUBE-WELLS

*655. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tube-wells drilled during the year 1951-52 under 'G.M.F.' Campaign; and

(b) the additional area brought under cultivation and the additional quantity of food grains produced by these wells?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Complete information for the G.M.F. year ending June, 1952 is not yet available. However from July, 1951 to March, 1952, 449 tube-wells were constructed.

(b) The additional area benefited by these tube-wells is estimated to be 67,000 acres. Information regarding additional food grains produced by these wells is not yet available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was the target of grow-more-food in 1950-51 achieved?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as these tube-wells are concerned, Sir, which this question refers to, we have no definite information yet.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I wanted to know about the year 1950-51. Figures for that year must be available with the Government by now. I want to know whether the target was achieved in that year or it fell short very substantially.