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Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the admission made by the Minister, has any action been taken on the members of the Committee or on the Secretary?

Shri Buragohain: The only thing, Sir, was that the Committee did not acknowledge this in their report. So if they now make an acknowledgement, I think it will be satisfactory.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Was this Committee consulted when the North and South Avenue buildings were constructed?

Shri Buragohain: I am not quite sure, but I think, Sir, their advice was available also with regard to these constructions.

FRENCH POSSESSION IN INDIA

***2046. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of holding a referendum to settle the future of French settlements in India has been shelved for the present by the French Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Government have not received any information to this effect.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that conditions in French Settlements in India have considerably deteriorated during the recent months for holding a referendum?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, conditions have deteriorated. They have been in a deteriorated condition for a considerable time.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for this deterioration and how do Government expect to improve them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are reasons internal to the French Settlements. I have already answered at some length some questions and quoted from a report by certain neutral observers who went there.

डा. रामनारायण सिंह : फ्रेंच सरकार
से रिफरेंडम के बारे में प्रधान मंत्री कोई
लिखा-पढ़ी करते हैं कि नहीं, अगर करते
हैं तो उस का फल क्या होता है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जो हां, कुछ
बीज बोये थे लेकिन अभी तक दस्त
निकले नहीं हैं ।

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the transfer of Chandernagore is completed, and if so, how the administration is carried on there at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, the *de facto* transfer of Chandernagore took place sometime ago and the *de jure* transfer took place only a short while ago. Immediately after that the existing administration of Chandernagore—some kind of a Municipal administration—became *functus officio* in law and for the moment the Administrator is carrying on pending fresh elections.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, what is the future plan for Chandernagore—whether it will be integrated with West Bengal or kept as a separate unit?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That I cannot say now, except that the people of Chandernagore will be consulted.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, how the matter stands at present with regard to Pondicherry.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It stands where it was.

CEMENT

***2047. Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of cement Government propose to import this year and from where?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The answer is in the negative.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE

***2050. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) in what places the scheme of Employees' State Insurance is to be implemented in the near future;

(b) what is the experience of the working of the scheme at Kanpur and Delhi; and

(c) how far the co-operation of the employers has been forthcoming?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) It is the present intention to implement the Employees' State

Insurance Scheme in the near future in Punjab and Greater Bombay.

(b) The working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme in Delhi and Kanpur has been, on the whole, satisfactory. Insured persons are at present entitled to medical care and treatment. Cash benefits in case of sickness and maternity will start from the 22nd November 1952 in Delhi and Kanpur. The employees are increasingly realising the advantages of the scheme and constant efforts are being made to improve the service, wherever necessary.

(c) Employers have been, on the whole, co-operating in running the scheme on proper lines, not only in Delhi and Kanpur, but also in the rest of the country, where special contributions are payable under the Act.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what was the financial contribution Government had to make towards working the scheme in Delhi and Kanpur?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think it is 5 per cent.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I wanted the amount, Sir.

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not sure; I have not got that exactly, in my note. I shall find out.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the principle that is followed in selecting industries or localities for the application of this scheme.

Shri V. V. Giri: In fact, certain industries are fixed up for the application of this scheme. At the present moment, as I have stated, Kanpur and Delhi are selected and it is proposed to add the scheme introduced by August 1952 in the Punjab, January 1953 in Bombay and Bangalore, July 1953 in Madras, Calcutta, Nagpur and Jubbulpore, October 1953 in Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Agra, Coimbatore, Asansol and Burnpur, April 1954 all the other places where the number of industrial workers is 5000 or above and by July 1954, at the remaining centres.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What was the consideration for selecting these localities or these industries?

Shri V. V. Giri: Because there are workers more than 5000 and they are important centres.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Have cases been brought to the notice of the Government in which employees who do not get medical facilities in the hospitals or dispensaries under this scheme are

made to pay from their own pocket in spite of the contribution they have been making?

Shri V. V. Giri: I shall make enquiries.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Are the Government aware that since the introduction of this scheme the leave facilities of workers in various undertakings in Kanpur and also in Delhi have been adversely affected and the employers in order to evade the operation of that Act have been trying to curtail the leave facilities of the workers?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government are aware and we are dealing with the question.

Shri Nana Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to introduce the scheme in the State of Madras this year?

Shri V. V. Giri: The date has been fixed for Madras and we are in constant consultation with the Madras Government and we hope by that date the scheme will be introduced there.

FINANCIAL ADVISER TO HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON

*2051. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Financial Adviser attached to the High Commissioner in London is an officer subordinate to him; and

(b) what action Government have taken in regard to the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The Financial Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London is subject to the administrative control of the High Commissioner.

(b) Instructions based on the general recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee are being issued to all the Indian Missions abroad for compliance and future guidance.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Financial Adviser has powers to scrutinise the various proposals from the purely financial point of view?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is what the Financial Adviser is therefor.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, in what cases the opinion of the Financial Adviser was not taken and acted upon by the High Commissioner?