

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 26th May, 1952

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DETENTION OF M. Ps.

*155. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many elected Members of the State Legislatures or Parliament of India are still under detention?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): According to the information available with the Government of India, three Members of State Legislatures and one Member of a State Electoral College were in detention on 19th May 1952.

Shri Velayudhan: Which are the State legislatures or the Electoral Colleges, the three Members of which are under detention?

Shri Satish Chandra: There is one in Saurashtra, two in Rajasthan and one Member of the Electoral College in Tripura.

Shri Velayudhan: Are Government aware that two Members of the State Legislature of Travancore-Cochin are under detention?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have no information. Probably the information of the hon. Member is slightly old. These are the only persons now under detention, as far as I know.

Shri Nambiar: Are Government aware that a Member of the State Legislature of Hyderabad was arrested yesterday?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have no information yet.
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Shri Gurupadaswamy: Is it not a fact that these arrests have led to the violation of the fundamental rights?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to release convicts just because they are elected to legislatures, because two of the people who have been released are convicts?

Shri B. S. Murthy: What are the reasons for the detention and may I know whether Government have taken any action in sending these cases before the Advisory Board?

Shri Satish Chandra: The one person from Saurashtra is H. H. the Thakur Sahab of Dhrol, who is suspected of complicity with Bhupat, the dacoit. He is not a political prisoner. The two others in Rajasthan are Thakur Kesar Singh and Kumar Devi Singh of Mandavi, who have been detained similarly on suspicion of harbouring dacoits. The one person in Tripura is not actually a Member of a State legislature. He is a Member of the State electoral college and is a Communist. His case is pending before the Advisory Board and he might be released if the Board so decides.

Shri Jangde: May I know how many M.Ps. and M.L.As. are working underground?

Shri Satish Chandra: I think all M.Ps. and M.L.As. are supposed to work overground.

NAVAL AIR STRIPS

*156. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government propose to establish at the naval establishment, Cochin, a naval air strip able to take naval squadrons from ships?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to establish it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) It is intended to take over the existing airfield at Cochin and commission it as an Indian Naval Station.

(b) No firm date can yet be given, but it is hoped to take over the airfield about September, 1952.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How do Government propose to get the naval aircraft personnel trained? Will they be sent to foreign countries or do Government propose to establish a naval centre here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The idea behind this Cochin training station is to serve the purpose of training naval personnel, as the hon. Member envisages. As to whether they have to be sent abroad for further training is a matter which will be considered after the initial training.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that some naval aircraft have been ordered to be purchased?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, for the purpose of training a fleet requirement unit is necessary. Certain aircraft have been ordered to be purchased and I think the deal is in course of completion.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How soon do Government expect that these aircrafts will be received here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not in a position to give the exact time but it is expected that operations so far as the training station is concerned will commence sometime in September this year.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether similar facilities will be provided in the Visakhapatnam harbour?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

*157. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the area or areas in the different States of the country where Army personnel have been used since January, 1951 for digging wells and tanks for providing water to the drought-affected people and cattle?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Rayalaseema in Madras State.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How many wells and tanks have been constructed by the army personnel?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The work was started during the first week of April and the work turned out up to the 9th May is 35 wells deepened and the work on 16 wells is in progress.

Seth Govind Das: Is it proposed that this work would be done in other States also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question has to be decided according to the nature of the contingencies that develop.

Shri T. Subrahmanyam: Is the work in Rayalaseema proceeding?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not unless conditions have supervened which have made it impossible for the work to be carried on or have made it unnecessary.

Shri Jangde: May I know whether Government intends to send army personnel to work in the Sundarban area also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think the proposal is before the Government.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Will Government consider placing on the Table of the House a detailed statement showing the actual work done by the army authorities in the Rayalaseema area?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I shall convey the request to the hon. Defence Minister.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS CENTRE

*158. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state if the Artificial Limbs Centre of India is capable of meeting the requirements both military and civil of the country?

(b) How many disabled soldiers and other persons have so far been benefited by such limbs?

(c) Is the Centre likely to be expanded?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Artificial Limb Centre, Poona is capable of meeting the present peace time requirements of the military and also, to a certain extent, of the civil.

(b) Disabled soldiers 1893. Civilians. 272.

(c) There is no immediate proposal to do so but civil requirements are