

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ARREST OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEMBERS (TRIPURA)

*920. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that three Electoral College members of Tripura namely Sree Hemanta Deb Barma, Atikul Islam and Sirajul Islam were arrested in August 1952, and were kept as undertrial prisoners in division II in the Agartala District Jail for about a week and if so, what were the reasons for the same?

(b) Is the II Division in the Agartala District Jail in reality the III Division of other jails?

(c) Is it a fact that the above electoral College members were given food in the open and were not allowed mosquito curtains?

(d) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of the above jail refused to grant them an interview when they wanted to see him?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Kalya): (a) Shri Hemanta Deb Barma, Atikul Islam and Sirajul Islam were kept in Agartala Central Jail as undertrial prisoners in division II. They were so classified by the Court before whom they were being tried on a charge under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 109 of the Indian Penal Code.

(b) No.

(c) They were treated like Division II Prisoners in regard to these matters. No discrimination was made.

(d) No.

MINERAL RESOURCES IN TRIPURA

*921. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether any party of foreigners have visited Tripura recently in search of oil and other mineral resources?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have signed an agreement with certain American oil concerns for working an oil mine in Tripura, and if so, what are the terms of that agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Matavlya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exploring licences. Prospecting licences and Mining leases for petroleum are granted by State Govern-

ments in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum Concession Rules, 1949, after obtaining the approval of the Central Government. A statement giving information regarding exploring licences, prospecting licences and mining leases for petroleum granted in Tripura is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 36.]

DISTRICT COUNCIL IN MANIPUR

*922. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some tribal organisations have demanded from the Prime Minister during his visit to Manipur for setting up of autonomous District Council in the hills of Manipur?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have Government given any assurance to them in order to meet their demand for District Council?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Kalya): (a) During the Prime Minister's visit a representation was submitted on behalf of the Mao-Maram Naga Tribe which inter alia demanded the setting up of District Councils for the hill areas of Manipur.

(b) No.

EXEMPTION UNDER SEC. 15-B OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT

*923. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the rules, if any, which guide Government in according approval to charitable institutions for exemption under Section 15B of the Indian Income-tax Act;

(b) whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a copy of the Rules; and

(c) if there are no rules, considerations which regulate the grant or rejection of applications for approval for exemption under Section 15B of the Indian Income-tax Act?

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): (a) There are no rules as such for guidance of Government in according approval to charitable institutions for exemption under section 15B of the Income-tax Act.

(b) In view of the reply to (a), there are no rules to be laid on the Table of the House.