

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. In accordance with the decision reached in the Partition Council, all those who had opted for Pakistan finally should look to that Government for employment as well as pensionary and other service benefits. In order however to avoid undue hardship the Government of India decided to re-employ Pakistan (final) optees on a temporary basis. In March, 1950, they made a proposal to the Government of Pakistan for the recognition, on a reciprocal basis, of the *de facto* options of all such Government servants provided that they joined their posts in India/Pakistan on or before the 15th February 1948. No reply has so far been received from the Pakistan Government.

(c) and (d). Yes.

Information was called for in order to assess the magnitude of the problem and its probable financial implications. A final decision will be taken as soon as possible after the Pakistan Government's reply is received.

Shri Gidwani: Do the Government expect any reply from the Pakistan Government?

Shri Datar: We do expect a reply from a neighbouring Government?

Shri Gidwani: Supposing there is no reply...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That will be problematical at this stage.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LIBRARY MOVEMENT

*104. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by the Central Government to encourage and develop the library movement in India?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 20]

AERODROME, SABEYA POLICE STATION, BIHAR

*105. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the aerodrome at Sabeya Police Station, Meergunj Sarai, Bihar, was con-

structed during the last war and a large number of houses were constructed on the land acquired for the purpose;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these houses are collapsing, a number of them having already collapsed;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the runways are being used as routes for ordinary traffic and are being worn out;

(d) whether it is the intention of Government to maintain the aerodrome; and

(e) if so, what arrangements are there to carry out the intention and to keep the aerodrome intact and fit for use by the bigger planes?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) The buildings on this airfield were transferred to the State Government in 1950. Government of India have, therefore, no information about the State of these buildings.

(c) The runways are surplus to defence requirements and, therefore, are not being maintained. Government have no information whether they are being used for ordinary traffic. It is likely they are also deteriorating for want of maintenance.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

*106. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Resolution that was recently passed by the Inter-University Board which met at Madras to set up a University Grants Committee; and

(b) if so, whether this University Grants Committee will be functioning on the lines of the one at present functioning in Great Britain?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) More or less on the same lines, except that the scope of the University Grants Commission is restricted to the four Central Universities and to those Universities whose applications for grant are forwarded to it by the Government.