

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 30th November 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Subodh Hasda (Midnapore—Jhargram—Reserved—Sch. Tribes):

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

\*506. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over two lakhs wooden sleepers have been washed away recently by the river Chenab from Indian territory towards Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to recover them?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) The estimate of the Jammu and Kashmir Government is that the loss is between 60,000 and 70,000 scantlings.

(b) No action has been taken.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether all these sleepers belonged to the contractors or any portion of it was owned by Government also?

**Dr. Katju:** I have no information, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Did the second river, Ravi, also assist Pakistan in getting some sleepers in this way?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** They were washed away in Ravi as well. I want to know whether it is a fact. I am not putting it as a joke, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question was whether Ravi was assisting Pakistan?

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether any of these sleepers were washed away in Ravi as well?

**Dr. Katju:** I have no information.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is there any agreement, express or implied with Pakistan, or any international convention that goods received in any country in this method must be restored to the owner country?

**Dr. Katju:** I really must ask for notice of these elaborate questions.

FINANCIAL ISSUES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

\*508. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the debts due from Pakistan and since when they have remained unpaid;

(b) what are our claims on different accounts which have remained unsettled;

(c) how do Government propose to settle and realise them; and

(d) what are the dues to which Pakistan has refused payment?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) to (d). As the Finance Minister mentioned in reply to a starred question in this House on the 14th May, 1954, the exact amount of Pakistan's partition

debt has not yet been determined. This debt is repayable in 50 annual equated instalments of principal and interest commencing on the 15th August 1952. No payment has been made by the Pakistan Government so far. The Finance Minister has been in touch with the Finance Minister of Pakistan in regard to the resumption of the negotiations for the final evaluation of the debt and the settlement of other outstanding financial issues, but so far it has not been possible to fix a meeting. There are a number of claims and counter-claims on either side and until an overall settlement is reached it would be difficult to say which individual claim has been rejected or accepted by either side.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** May I have an approximate idea of the claims and counter-claims?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think it has been mentioned in this House on previous occasions that the Partition debt would amount to near about Rs. 250 crores approximately.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** What is the time that is likely to take to start realising this amount?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** It all depends on the other side also—their willingness to make the payment. It has not been possible to come to any decision in this matter.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** What is the amount of claim put forward by Pakistan?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The amount I have mentioned: according to our calculations is the approximate net amount due from Pakistan Government to our account deducting their dues.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Is there any amount which has been definitely refused by Pakistan?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** No, Sir, nothing has been definitely refused, nor has anything been definitely admitted.

#### DELIMITATION COMMISSION

**\*509. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delimitation Commission has completed its work; and

(b) if not, what is the progress of work and when it is likely to be completed?

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** (a) and (b). The Delimitation Commission has completed its work in 17 out of 28 States and final orders delimiting Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies have been published. In three States, namely, Assam, West Bengal and Vindhya Pradesh, the last public sittings have been held and the Commission expects to publish its final orders within the next two or three weeks. Its work is in the final stage in Saurashtra, Bombay, Rajasthan, Bihar and Hyderabad and is expected to be finished by the first week of February, 1955. The Commission hopes to complete its entire work by the end of February, 1955.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know whether the recommendations or proposals of this Commission have been finalised wherever they have completed their work?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** With regard to certain States which I have named their work has been finalised. With regard to some States the work is just in the stage of being finalised.

**Shri N. L. Joshi:** May I know whether the final report of the Commission will be placed on the Table of the House for consideration?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** In the Delimitation Act I do not think there is any provision for placing the report before Parliament.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Is it a fact that the orders passed by the Commission were not based on figures ascertained in the Census?