

representatives of the principals of the training colleges, and also representatives of the All India Council of Technical Education, and the Inter-University Board.

DACOITS

***365. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the depredations and murders committed and the terror caused by the dacoit gangs known as 'Man Singh Gang' and 'Lakhan Singh Gang' operating in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Bharat in the ravines of the river Chambal and the adjoining areas of Rajasthan and Vindhya Pradesh, reports about which appear in the newspapers every now and then;

(b) if so, whether the Governments of the States so affected have been asked to submit reports as to the number of people killed, the property looted and other losses caused; and

(c) facts contained in such reports?

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

(b) No. The State Governments concerned, however, keep the Government of India informed.

(c) Any matter of importance is mentioned.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know since when these gangs have been operating in these districts?

Shri Datar: May I point out to the hon. Member that as many as nine gangs were there? Six gangs have been completely routed, and the question remains only with regard to two gangs. There also, considerable action with great success has already taken place.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Have Government any idea as to how many people have been actually killed by these gangs?

Shri Datar: A considerable number of persons has been killed; that is true. But the number is not so large as the hon. Member possibly thinks.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know how many times successful battles were raged by our police, but which resulted in the escape of these gangs?

Shri Datar: As many as 68 encounters had taken place; and our police have succeeded in a number of them.

Shri G. S. Singh: The hon. Minister stated that six gangs have been routed. But is it not a fact that those gangs have dispersed and joined the other two gangs?

Shri Datar: There is no question about that; I said that they have been completely routed, and not merely dispersed.

SILVER REFINERY PLANT

***366. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1065 on the 13th December, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the construction of the building for the Silver Refinery Plant has been completed; and

(b) if so, whether the installation of the plant has commenced?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The buildings work of the project is still in progress; it is expected to be completed by the end of 1955.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the third instalment of equipment to be shifted from West Germany by the end of January 1955 has not since been received by us?

Shri A. C. Guha: The firm undertook to supply the machinery in three instalments. Out of that, two instalments of machinery have already been received. But as the building is not complete, they are now kept there.