

Pandit G. B. Pant: The question seems to be hypothetical.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if Government are aware that in this particular case of the recent event, while holding the National Conference of the Goans there, there were Indian nationals who were insulted and spat upon in their faces and, if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to protect their own nationals—if not the Goan nationals?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government have been watching with admiration the fight that Goan nationals have been conducting for the liberation of their country, and they are entitled to as much of respect from India as any Indian nationals that may happen to be there.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that different versions about the treatment of the *satyagrahis* are appearing in the Press, have Government their own resources to find the things for themselves and, if so, what is their information?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government are using all the resources that are available to them, and it seems to be true that the Goan Government has been behaving in a manner which cannot be regarded as civilised, in their treatment of these *satyagrahis*.

Shri B. N. Misra: In view of the original treaty between the British Government and the Goan Government under which for increasing their military strength they had to take the consent of the Government of India, may I know whether the Goan Government has taken the consent of the Indian Government, and, if not, what action is being taken?

Pandit G. B. Pant: About what?

Mr. Speaker: About the terms of the treaty. He says there is an old treaty between the British Government and the Goan Government under which they cannot increase their military strength without the consent of the Indian Government.

Pandit G. B. Pant: If true, that fact will be borne in mind in dealing with Portugal.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know how far our repeated declarations that we will not use force in Goa under any circumstances have resulted in giving a premium to the intransigence of the Portuguese authorities, resulting in untold suffering to the Goans there?

Pandit G. B. Pant: It may be true that persons who believe in violence do not easily surrender to non-violence, but are ultimately vanquished.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

*2285. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council of Local Self-Government has started functioning;

(b) whether the Council has formulated any programme of work;

(c) the important recommendations that have been made by the Council; and

(d) the nature of decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No. It will start functioning with its first meeting proposed to be held in June, 1955.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

TOURISTS FROM U.S.A.

*2289. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of American tourists who visited India during the period July to December, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): 5219.