

(b) The systematic survey of Ground-water conditions of the areas including exploratory borings is a very elaborate process and will take some time to complete.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the limitation concerning experts and funds is one of the main reasons for the fact that a systematic survey of ground-water conditions in the country is not progressing as rapidly as it is required?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. With regard to the ground-water exploration work, the programme is moving quite fast. I would like the hon. Member to appreciate that one party of geologists, with assistants and surveyors, cannot do more than 200 square miles in a year. Looking to the large area that is still to be explored, it is not likely that the entire ground-water survey programme of the country can be finished in less than a few years.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether any more team would be appointed for the same purpose?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are various teams working on it, but there has to be some limit on the increase of the number of these teams. As I said, the programme is going on quite fast. There are other difficulties also. We have got some experts from America also and they are co-operating with us and as I said it will take a number of years before the programme is completed.

Shri Bansal: The hon. Minister has stated that the work is progressing fast. May I know what is the rate of progress?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I gave the idea that 200 square miles can be completed in one year by one party.

Shri Bansal: Formerly, how many miles were being covered?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It was perhaps less previously. It has now increased to 200 square miles.

Shri Meghnad Saha: What has become of that miracle worker—Pani Maharaj?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: My hon. friend knows more about it than myself.

मध्य भारत में रास्त्रों की अनुज्ञप्ति

* ११६७. डा० सत्त्वबादी: क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य भारत में गत वर्ष रिवाल्वर तथा २०२ राइफलों की निजी अनुज्ञप्तियां वापस ले ली गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस नम्बर के रिवाल्वरों आदि की अनुज्ञप्तियां वापस ली गई हैं;

(ग) अनुज्ञप्तियां वापस लेने के क्या कारण हैं, और

(घ) क्या अन्य किसी दूसरे राज्य ने भी ऐसी ही कार्यवाही की है?

गृह-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्री श्वात्तार): (क) से (घ). राज्य सरकारों से सूचना मांगी गई है तथा प्राप्त हो जाने पर सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

डा० सत्त्वबादी: क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि इसका सम्बन्ध मध्य भारत में डाकूओं की सरगर्मियों को चेक करने के साथ है?

श्री श्वात्तार: कुछ मालूम नहीं।

INCOME-TAX OFFICERS

*1198. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of Class I and Class II officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the Income Tax Department at present;

(b) the number of Class I and Class II officers directly recruited in the Department during the period from January 1950 to January 1955; and

(c) the number of posts among them that were reserved for Scheduled Castes?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 67].

Shri I. Eacharan: The Statement shows that 54 posts have been reserved for Scheduled Castes. May I know how many applications have been received for this and how many have been appointed?

Shri M. C. Shah: 12½ per cent. is reserved, so far as the direct recruitment is concerned. Last time, in the *ad hoc* recruitment of 179 Income-tax Officers, Class II Grade III, the Union Public Service Commission recommended only 16 as against 22 vacancies reserved for them.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the reasons for not getting adequate number of Scheduled Caste personnel for the posts?

Shri M. C. Shah: Though there were 227 applications, the Union Public Service Commission considered only 18 Scheduled Caste candidates as suitable for those posts.

Shri I. Eacharan: Out of the 34 officers, how many belong to Class I and how many to Class II?

Shri M. C. Shah: I have not got that break up.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

*1199. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have so far conveyed their opinion to Government on the proposal to remedy the evils of crossword puzzles and competitions; and

(b) the number of States which have recommended their ban?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). All States have been consulted and their replies received. Their opinions are treated as confidential.

Shri Gidwani: How many concerns were doing the business of crossword puzzles and competitions in India on 31st March, 1954?

Shri Datar: I could not follow the first part of the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the number of people who are carrying on this business.

Shri Datar: I am not aware of the number of agencies doing this, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: What was the total amount received by these concerns during the year 1953-1954 and what was the amount distributed by them as prizes?

Shri Datar: I have no information.

Shri Gidwani: When do the Government propose to ban the business of crossword puzzles and competitions?

Shri Datar: Government are considering the reactions of the State Governments and hope to bring a Bill before this House as early as possible.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know if Government are aware of the educative value which the crossword puzzles have for the students?

Shri Datar: There are only a small number of persons who are enamoured of the test of skill and intelligence in this respect. The general opinion is that this is vicious and has to be controlled, if not completely eliminated.

CROSSWORD PUZZLES

*1200. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of Chief Ministers of different States held in Delhi in January, 1955 considered the question of putting a ban on "Crossword puzzles"; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?