

Date: 22.01.55

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)

2377

LOK SABHA

Monday, 18th April, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Birakisor Ray (Cuttack).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ITALIAN MISSIONS

*2325. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Italian Missions started in the country since Independence; and

(b) the names of the places where they are located?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The number of Italian Missions or Branches started in India since Independence is seven; six in Bombay and one in Rajasthan.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know in what ostensible work they are engaged?

Shri Abid Ali: They are attending to educational, medical and social service.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if any reports have been received by Government that they are engaged in the task of converting people?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir, many reports have been received.

108 LSD

2378

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, what action Government propose to take in view of the fact that there are reports in the Press about the forcible conversion of Indians by these missionaries?

Shri Abid Ali: I will require notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that they are carrying on medical work also. Could I know, Sir, the number of hospitals opened by these Italian Missionaries and the number of beds provided?

Shri Abid Ali: Notice.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: How many Italians have been imported by these missions and how many of them are doing evangelical work?

Shri Abid Ali: For this question also, I would require notice.

Shri M. D. Joshi: May I know in what particular areas they are carrying on their activities?

Shri Abid Ali: As I have already said, six in Bombay and one in Rajasthan.

Shri M. D. Joshi: In what particular areas of the two States?

Shri Abid Ali: In Bombay there is a branch called Book Stall attached to the Examiner Press Corner of Medows Street in Bombay City; one in Ville Parle, near Bombay; St. Anthony's Convent in Chembur; another branch also in Chembur, near Bombay, and also one each in Sion and Bandra near Bombay. The Rajasthan mission is situated in the District of Dungarpur.