

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 29th May, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

*2624. **Shri I. Eacharan**: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state :

(a) whether the benefits of the schemes launched by the Central Social Welfare Board are not open to the Scheduled Castes ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The services provided by the Board are open to all without distinction of caste, creed or religion.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know whether any amount has been exclusively set apart for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and, if not, what are the reasons for the same ?

Dr. M. M. Das: No separate allocation or special sum has been earmarked for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, but some welfare extension projects have been established in Scheduled Tribes areas.

Shri Thimmaiah: Is it a fact that the Central Social Welfare Board has issued a circular to the branch Boards that no money should be spent on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

Dr. M. M. Das: We have got no information on this particular point.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Is it not a fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have a definite scheme of scholarships in the State Government separately and that is the reason why these people have been asked not to duplicate the things ?

Shri Thimmaiah: This does not deal with scholarships.

Dr. M. M. Das: This does not deal with scholarships at all.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board has issued a circular to the various colleges, hostels and other organisations that this Central Social Welfare Board will not be able to give any grants to the welfare work carried on for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

Dr. M. M. Das: There are particular types of welfare work which are carried on by this Central Social Welfare Board. I do not understand what relation the Board's activities has got with hostels, etc.

Shri N. Rachiah: Is it a fact that the Board has laid down that Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes institutions are not entitled to any aid under this scheme, as they have got separate schemes ? And, if there are such separate schemes, may I know what are the schemes under the Education Ministry ?

Dr. M. M. Das: I think the position is just the opposite. It is made one of the conditions of the grant that no distinction should be made in the matter of caste, creed or religion, so far the services of the Board are concerned.

Shri Velayudhan rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of supplementary questions. Hon. Members will see that we have just started. There are 45 Questions on the Order Paper. At least let me finish 30 Questions. Each question appears to be very important when it is taken up—until we go to the next question.

MAHANADI FLOODS

***2625. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any report of assessment of damages caused through floods in the Mahanadi during 1955, by a committee appointed by the Government of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to it?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) A grant of Rs. 227 lakhs and a loan of Rs. 73 lakhs have already been sanctioned to the State Government for flood and drought relief.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the actual damage caused to life and property during these floods?

Shri Datar: Sir, the damage is considerable. The number of dead is 45; the number of livestock lost 4,170; the extent of houses damaged is valued at Rs. 71,85,000 and crop damaged Rs. 4,14,40,000, and breaches about 420.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether there is any proposal to constitute a flood control board as in the case of U. P., Bihar and Assam?

Shri Datar: Sir, I do not deal with that particular subject.

Shri Raghavaiah: Do Government propose to take any steps to see that the recurrence of floods is averted in the future, instead of giving all this relief to the flood-affected victims?

Shri Datar: If I remember aright, Government have already taken this question in hand.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know the amount of assistance that the Government of Orissa had asked for and the proportion of that amount that has been granted?

Shri Datar: I have not got the figure in respect of the amount asked for, but we have laid down or rather the Finance Ministry have laid down certain rules according to which they bear a proportion of the costs, and on that basis Rs. 3 crores have been advanced.

ENCASHMENT OF SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

***2626. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations regarding the difficulties experienced in encashment of National Savings Certificates owned by the Government employees who had been working in Pakistan and have opted for service in India at the time of partition;

(b) if so, the nature of such difficulties; and

(c) the steps taken to mitigate them?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The difficulties experienced generally are:—

(i) delays in the receipt of verification lists from Pakistan,

(ii) applications for the transfer of certificates not registered before the prescribed date, namely, 30th June 1949,

(iii) certificates pledged as securities not released by the pledgees in Pakistan.

(c) (i) Appointment of Liaison Officers in October 1954 for expeditious exchange of verification lists,