

Hindu Religious Trusts

+

- *830. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Warrior:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 389 on the 13th August, 1959 and state:

(a) the progress since made with regard to the proposal of appointing a Committee to go into the manner in which religious trusts are being managed and their funds utilised and to make recommendations for the proper management of the endowments and the utilisation of their funds; and

(b) the time by which legislation in this regard will be introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) The terms of reference of the Committee and its personnel are still under consideration and will be finalised shortly.

(b) It is not possible to say if legislation in this regard will be necessary, as this will depend on the recommendations made by the Committee.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether there is any proposal to make an assessment of the funds of these religious trusts and charitable institutions?

Mr. Speaker: That is the object of setting up this committee.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I do not think, Sir, we have any statistics with regard to the funds in the hands of those who are managing these religious trusts.

श्री भवन वर्मा : श्रीमन्, क्या माननीय मंत्री को याद है कि इस संबंध में सब से पहला प्रश्न २६ सितम्बर, १९५५ को प्राज से सवा चार वर्ष पहले पूछा गया था तो अभी तक भी कमेटी की नियुक्ति में जब इतना विचार

किया जा रहा है तो कब तक प्राशा की जाये कि इस बारे में कोई कदम उठाया जायेगा ?

Shri A. K. Sen: I do not think there was any proposal to appoint a committee in 1955; if there was any it was not to my knowledge. The question was first mooted in April, 1959. The Cabinet has been considering this question. In fact, there is a Cabinet Sub-Committee already functioning in this matter. It has gone into the matter and I think the question will be finalised very soon.

Shrinati Ha Palchoudhuri: Are the Government aware that after the abolition of zamindari in many of the States before it was properly implemented many properties have been made over to religious trusts; if so, have Government made any assessment of such transactions?

Shri A. K. Sen: No such information has reached the Government; yet all relevant assessments will no doubt be made.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that legislation of this kind exists in certain States of India; if so, may I know what is the good of having this central legislation on the subject?

Shri A. K. Sen: It is true, and that is certainly one of the points that are being considered.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Government has any proposal to bring the individually owned shrines and temples also under the purview of the proposed legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must make their questions clear. Does he mean privately owned shrines and temples?

Shri P. C. Borooah: Yes.

Shri A. K. Sen: Only public religious trusts are proposed to be brought under this legislation.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether any assessment has been made of the incomes of the temples and

mosques existing in the country and whether they will be brought under the purview of this legislation?

Shri A. K. Sen: I think I have already answered the question that no assessments are yet available with regard to the funds at the disposal of all these institutions. With regard to mosques they are governed by the Wakf Act in force in most of the States; we do not propose to legislate on mosques for the time being.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether the views of the State Governments have been ascertained in the matter; if so, to what effect?

Shri A. K. Sen: They are certainly being ascertained.

Shri Tangamani: May I know the nature of the Bill which was submitted to the Cabinet Sub-Committee in February, 1959, to which a reference was made on the previous occasion; and may I also know whether its terms of reference will include trusts of the different religions and not only the Hindu religion?

Shri A. K. Sen: The terms of the Bill discussed by the Cabinet cannot be disclosed now; as soon as the question is finalised it will certainly be brought before the House. With regard to institutions of other religious communities, it is not proposed to legislate at the moment with regard to any religious trusts apart from the Hindu religious trusts.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the number of such trusts, the funds at their disposal and the way in which those funds are utilised?

Mr. Speaker: It is for that very purpose this committee is going to be appointed.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: But information about the number of trusts can be given.

Shri A. K. Sen: That does not arise out of this, if a separate question is asked I shall certainly supply the information.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know what the policy of the Government would be with regard to these trusts and temples managed under the Acts of State Governments? Will the intended legislation take them into account and an All-India Act would be passed?

Shri A. K. Sen: As I said, this is precisely one of the matters which is engaging the attention of the Government now, and this is certainly one of the very relevant considerations which will be borne in mind by Government before any legislation is brought up here.

Calcutta High Court Bench at Port Blair

+

*831. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are under the jurisdiction of Calcutta High Court;

(b) if so, whether it is not a fact that due to inconvenient communications and in the interest of litigants it was settled that a Bench of the Calcutta High Court will sit once in three months at Port Blair; and

(c) if so, how many times the Bench went and sat there?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) The rules framed by the High Court at Calcutta in connection with the cases arising in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands provided that one or more judges of the Calcutta High Court shall visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, by way of circuit, whenever the Chief Justice from time to time may appoint in order to exercise in respect of cases arising in the Islands the jurisdiction and powers vested in that Court by the Constitution, provided that such visits shall