

I think some relaxation has already been given to them.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Is it a fact that Mr. E. H. Marker, a former Under Secretary of the Board of Trade who came here on the invitation of the Central Government to advise on the Banking Companies Act has suggested that the Banking Companies Act should be radically changed and if so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not know whether this concerns with the question under discussion. I would like to have notice.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: How do the time liabilities and the demand liabilities in Travancore-Cochin banks compare with other banks in Part B States?

Shri A. C. Guha: Travancore-Cochin has a peculiar position. It has more agricultural or rural people. This condition prevails in other States also, I have already stated. This particular point was made out by two members and I think certain relaxations have already been given in that matter.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: May I know whether the demand liabilities in Travancore-Cochin banks are much less than the time liabilities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are arguments.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that by the operation of the law, agriculturists and small traders will be denied the only help which they are getting now from small well conducted banks and that they will be at the mercy of private money-lenders who will fleece them?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think that that would be the opinion of the Reserve Bank.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the Finance Department has received any representation from the Government of Travancore-Cochin in this regard?

Shri A. C. Guha: As I said, we have received representations from the Banks Associations, the Travancore-Cochin Banks Association and the Kerala Banks Association. I have no information regarding the Travancore-Cochin Government.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Do these two Associations between themselves comprise all the banks in Travancore-Cochin?

Shri A. C. Guha: I can take it from the hon. Member.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Unlike the banks in other States like Bengal whose case the hon. Minister had taken up on former occasions very often, so far as Travancore-Cochin is concerned, is he aware that in the last so many years, there has not been a single bank crash?

Shri A. C. Guha: From the records I can say that there have been 97 bank failures in Travancore-Cochin. All this information may be available to the hon. Member from the Banking Enquiry Committee's report.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are the Government at least aware that the present circumstances will stifle the existing.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the good of this opinion that it will stifle etc.?

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not an expression of an opinion. Are the Government aware that it will stifle the existing inadequate rural credit facilities?

Shri A. C. Guha: It is a matter of opinion. However, I may add that had that been the Government's opinion, they would certainly have taken measures.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: May I know the number of persons to whom credit has been allowed by the various banks in Travancore-Cochin, and whether it will compare favourably with banks.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is arguing.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni: It is not an argument. I want to know how it compares.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

POSITION OF CHIEFS OF MANIPUR

1954. Shri Bishang Keishing: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Manipur is ascertaining the opinion of the Hill Tribes of Manipur in order to find out ways and means to adjust the future position of the Chiefs;

(b) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Hill Tribes of Manipur expressing their explicit opinion against the retaining of the Chiefs

as heads of villages as well as against the continuation of payment of heavy tribute to the Chiefs;

(c) whether they have also expressed their opinion in favour of the democratic Village Panchayat; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action in this connection?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Chief Commissioner of Manipur is contacting leading Hill people, both Kukis and Nagas, in order to ascertain whether any change is now called for and if so, to what extent.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it not a fact that apart from making several representations from time to time to the Government of India, the tribal people in Manipur, through their organisations, made written as well as personal representations during the visits of hon. the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to Manipur, demanding forthwith abolition of Chieftainship and stoppage of feudal levies either by the proclamation of the President or legislation, and the establishment of fully democratic village panchayats, and if so, may I know how the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have taken account of this demand?

Dr. Katju: Some representations were received and they are all under examination.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Are Government aware that several persons were imprisoned and heavily fined for refusing to pay feudal levies? May I know also whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Manipur is trying to collect the feudal levies through the police, on behalf of the Chiefs, and the tribal leaders thereupon have appealed to hon. the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to intervene?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How many questions in one question? Order, order, please. It is impossible to retain in mind all these questions. Two questions have been asked; that is enough. The hon. Minister.

Dr. Katju: I am fully aware of the whole position. It is not so bad or so dark as it is tried to be painted by my hon. friend. These areas are very ancient areas, ancient in their

customs, ancient in their outlook and not accustomed to quick change. The Tribal chiefs discharge very responsible duties, administrative as well as police duties and there are usually certain customary levies. They are in themselves, if not misused, not of an excessive description. We are taking the most active steps to find out as to what the tribal opinion as a whole is and what changes should be introduced. If changes are introduced, it may be that fairly extensive administrative machinery will have to be introduced in every village in order to discharge the duties. So far as allegations have been made about concrete cases, I should require notice I have tried to give a very complete answer to all the aspects that are raised.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मनीपुर के चीफ्स को कितना रुपया सालाना दिया जाता है ?

डा० काटजू : मनीपुर के चीफ्स को कुछ भी नहीं दिया जाता है । सरकार की तरफ से घेला भी नहीं दिया जाता है । वहां का तरीका यह है कि जब फसल खरम हो जाती है तो वहां के रहने वाले, गांवों के बाशिन्दे, उनको एक कनस्तर में धान भर कर देते हैं और अगर वहां कोई जानवर हलाक होता है तो उसका एक हिस्सा दिया जाता है । वहां का यह पुराना दस्तूर परम्परा से चला आ रहा है ।

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Is the hon. Minister aware that a Bill has been introduced in the Assam Assembly to grant the panchayat system in the villages, and whether the conditions of these feudal chiefs in Assam are the same as in Manipur?

Dr. Katju: There are two questions: whether the conditions are the same and whether a Bill has been introduced. So far as the introduction of a Bill is concerned, I can take information from my hon. friend. Whether the conditions are the same, that is a matter of opinion.

DISTRICT COUNCILS IN ASSAM

*1695. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state: