

(a) whether the District Councils have been functioning in all the Autonomous Districts of Assam; and

(b) whether any efforts are being made to bring the districts of the North East Frontier Agency to the same category of the Autonomous Districts of Assam?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Yes, except the Naga Hills.

(b) The North East Frontier Agency areas are comparatively undeveloped and cannot, therefore, straightaway be brought to the same administrative level as autonomous districts. Every effort is, however, being made to extend regular administration into the interior of tribal areas of the North East Frontier Agency. A Five Year Development Plan for the North East Frontier Agency has been prepared and is being executed according to the programme. The Plan contains various schemes for development of agriculture, forest, education, health services and roads.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** May I know whether it is a fact that the people in the autonomous districts of Assam have seriously felt the incompetence of the District Councils to safeguard even their minimum interests, and if so what consideration will be given to this?

**Shri Datar:** They have not felt so at all. On the other hand, the District Councils are working extremely well.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** May I know why the District Councils cannot be granted to the districts of the North East Frontier Agency under the present set up?

**Shri Datar:** The North East Frontier Agency is under the direct control of the Governor. So far as these districts are concerned, they are autonomous districts. Therefore, it is better that they continue as autonomous districts.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know if these Councils are statutory bodies and what their powers are?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to Schedule VI of the Constitution.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether any complaints have been received that these Councils are not doing proper justice by the people?

**Shri Datar:** To our knowledge, no complaint has been received.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** One question, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are trying to make allegations. This Hour is not used really for getting information. Either suggestions are made or debates are started or there are inferences and opinions. Twenty-five per cent. of the time is used for eliciting information and the rest of the time for giving information to the Minister.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** One question, only.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member is going on saying that the Councils are bad. The other side says that the Councils are extremely good. What am I to do?

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** I want to know whether it is true or not.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is the opinion of the hon. Member. All right; the hon. Member may put the question.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Arising out of the answer, am I to understand that District Councils are already in existence in the North East Frontier Agency?

**Shri Datar:** There is no question of District Councils so far as the North East Frontier Agency is concerned. They are in the other five out of six districts.

#### MAINTENANCE OF ACCOUNTS BY TOBACCO GROWERS

\*1697. **Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:**

(a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any representations have been received from tobacco growers about the hardships suffered in maintenance of accounts?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) and (b). Representations have been received about the maintenance of accounts mainly on two grounds (i) that most of the tobacco growers are illiterate and hence incapable of maintaining accounts, and (ii) that since English is understood only by a few, accounts should be allowed to be maintained in regional languages.

2. As regards (i) only large growers farming 10 acres or more of land for tobacco, and who constitute only 4

per cent. of the total number of tobacco growers. are required to maintain a simple account of the area cultivated, yield obtained and the method of its disposal. All other growers make oral declarations to the Central Excise Officers and have to maintain no accounts of the area of the land cultivated and the tobacco grown. For the convenience of those growers who cure their own tobacco and have to maintain accounts, if they cure 100 maunds or more, a simplified form of account has been devised.

3. Regarding (ii) all these forms are printed bilingually—in English and regional languages—and the trade is permitted to make entries in them in the regional language.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it not a fact that as many as ten different sets of accounts have to be maintained by these growers?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have stated that there is a printed form. The form is given to them and they have to keep accounts in that form.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government has appointed any officials to guide these growers to maintain these accounts?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The Excise officers would certainly help them.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know how many sets of forms are given to each grower?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** As far as I can say, there is only one set of form. I am speaking subject to correction. I am not quite sure of that.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know, Sir, how assessments of the small growers are made if they have no accounts?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** They give some oral account that so many acres of land has been cultivated.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Is it a fact that the oral accounts are not accepted and heavy assessment is made?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have no information. If the hon. Member has any information, he can forward that.

सेठ बचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि इन्स्पेक्टरों जांच करने के लिये जाते हैं वे प्रोविस को तकमीने के सम्बन्ध में काफ़ी परेशान करते हैं ?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I am not sure about the position. I can only say that if any such cases are reported to

the Government, Government will take cognizance and take proper steps to remedy the state of affairs.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Does the Minister know that in certain parts of Orissa, the seedlings are counted and then the assessment is made on the basis that so much will come out of this crop?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think the assessment is made according to the usual procedure, according to the acreage cultivated, and so there must be some basis for calculation; it may be according to the calculation of seedlings or plants.

#### NEW SCALES OF PAY IN SECRETARIAT OF TRIPURA

\*1700. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new scales of pay have been introduced in the Secretariat of the Government of Tripura; and

(b) whether it is true that under the new scale the employees of Tehsil and Press Department and all Class IV employees will get as yearly increment less than they were getting under the old scale?

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

(b) This is so in the case of some employees, but the maximum of the new time scale is higher except in the case of peons. Peons who are permanent in their posts are allowed to remain on the old scales of pay.

**Shri Biren Dutt:** May I know whether the post of Tahsildar has been abolished and Patwari has been introduced so as to make a new scale to be accepted by them, and if they were given some option to accept the lower scale or not?

**Dr. Katju:** I must say that my hon. friend has been much too quick for me.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** He wants to know if the posts of Tahsildars have been abolished, and also Patwaris.

**Shri Biren Dutt:** And Patwaris introduced with a lower scale of pay.

**Dr. Katju:** Not to my information. I should require notice for giving a completely accurate answer.

#### APPEALS BEFORE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

\*1701. **Shri K. C. Sedhis:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state: