

Signature in Hindi on Cheques

441. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a payment restriction on withdrawals from the current account of the State Bank if the drawee puts his signatures in Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the old rules of the Imperial Bank of India have not been amended in this respect;

(d) whether any representation regarding this matter has been received by Government; and

(e) if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The State Bank accepts cheques and endorsements in Hindi without restriction as to amount at its branches located in Hindi-speaking areas and adjacent areas where Hindi can be easily understood. At other places, the local agent has discretion to specify a limit as regards the amounts for which cheques can be signed in a vernacular. Alternatively, the Bank may require the account holder to sign cheques in the presence of a supervising official; but this requirement is waived at the discretion of the Local Head Office of the Bank when circumstances appear to make insistence on this requirement undesirable.

(b) The restriction obtaining in areas where Hindi is not the regional language or where Hindi is not easily understood is considered necessary in the interests both of the bank and the public in view of the fact that quite a number of constituents signing in vernacular have not yet acquired fluency and fully developed handwriting therein. Apart from this, there are practical difficulties in that cheques drawn in Indian languages require transliteration and authentication before they could be department-

ally dealt with. There are also possibilities of signatures being forged if they are drawn in a language with which the supervisory staff of the Bank are not fully familiar.

(c) The old procedure in regard to the acceptance of signatures and endorsements on cheques in Hindi and other Indian languages was revised by the State Bank about 18 months ago to the extent indicated in answer to part (a) of the question.

(d) No representation in this behalf has been received recently.

(e) Does not arise.

All India Tribal Conference at Koraput

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

(a) whether copies of the resolutions passed by the All India Tribal Conference held at Koraput (Orissa) from 29th April, 1957 to 1st May, 1957 have been received by Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) Yes.

(b) They are being examined.

Mirjumla Mosque, Assam

443. **Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of repairs and upkeep of the Mirjumla Mosque in Assam is borne by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what is the annual cost involved in its maintenance?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.