

removal of untouchability? If the Minister has asked in how many villages in each State untouchability has completely gone out, then they would have given the figures.

Shrimati Alva: That is a suggestion.

Cantonment Board, Ambala

*1460. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is applicable to the Cantonment Fund Employees; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the dispute between the Cantonment Board, Ambala, and the employees has not so far been referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication when negotiations and conciliations have failed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad): (a) Yes.

(b) Certain demands about their terms and conditions of service were made by the employees of the Cantonment Board Ambala and the decisions/views of the Government regarding these have been communicated to them on more than one occasion. The appropriate Government, under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is the State Government. The question of Government of India making a reference to the Industrial Tribunal, therefore, does not arise.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know whether the Centralisation of the services of the cantonment employees is under the consideration of the Government?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): A separate question may be put on that. If a separate question is put, I would be glad to furnish the answer.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know whether gratuity is being paid to cantonment board employees at the time of retirement, as in the case of other government employees?

Shri Raghuramaiah: These are all completely unconnected with the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What right has the Deputy Minister to say that they are unconnected?

Mr. Speaker: That is only for the information of the Chair, so that it may decide.

What does the dispute relate to?

Shri Raghuramaiah: So far as the Central Government is concerned, we are aware that certain points of difference between the Cantonment Board in question and the employees have come up for consideration. Most of the items were disposed of satisfactorily to our knowledge. Only in regard to two items, one relating to revision of scales of pay and the other, the merger of 50 per cent. of dearness allowance with pay, a decision is pending. No final decision has been taken on these two matters. In regard to pay scales, I might say that the pay scales have been revised there again except in regard to two or three categories of employees, the question has been completely settled; these two matters are, however, still pending consideration.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I asked whether these people are paid gratuity at the time of retirement as other government servants are paid?

Mr. Speaker: Gratuity is not one of the points at issue, it appears.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It comes under the dispute.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): This question relates to the demands made by the employees of a particular cantonment board. I wonder whether you would allow hon. Members to reopen the whole question.

Mr. Speaker: I only want to know about the question of gratuity to the employees within the purview of this question.

Shri Raghuramaiah: The question of pay and merger of dearness allowance only is now under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: So, gratuity is not included.

Question Hour is over.

Bombay State

Shri Yajnik: I request that Question No. 1471 standing in my name may be answered.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon Minister agreeable to answer.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): If you desire.

*1471. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bombay Government has divided the whole State into several divisions for which they are about to set up Divisional Development Boards;

(b) whether Government are aware that Surat District has been excluded from the Guj. at Division in contravention of Article 371(2)(a) of the Constitution of India which provides for Development Board for "the rest of Guj. at"; and

(c) whether these steps are being taken in pursuance of the directives of the Central Government under Article 371(2) and whether Government have authorised the Bombay State to take any steps as are being taken and contemplated by it in this matter?

Shri Datar: (a) The Bombay Government have divided the State into six divisions for administrative convenience, in conformity with the decision taken by the Inter-State Committee of Ministers in 1956. They have also decided to set up Divisional Development Councils in order to advise the Government in all matters affecting developmental activities and to co-ordinate these activities in the various Districts;

(b) The Surat district has been included in the Bombay division. As no

order has been made under Article 371(2) of the Constitution, the question of contravening provisions of that Article does not arise.

(c) No directive has been issued under Article 371(2). The Bombay Government are competent to take the steps they have taken.

Shri Yajnik: May I know if the cutting and chopping of the different parts of the Bombay State is not in contravention, if not of the letter, of the spirit of article 371, clause 2(a)? Even if the Bombay State was to have been divided, this should have been kept in mind.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not allowed to make a speech. Further, *non. Members will kindly bear in mind* that the question of interpretation of a statute can not be the subject matter of a question. There may be differences of opinion. What is the fact that the hon. Member wants to elicit?

Shri Yajnik: I want to ask whether the chipping and chopping of the Bombay State would not be in contravention of a specific provision of the Constitution, at least the spirit of that article which specifically lays down that Bombay State would be only divided into Vidarbha, Marathwada, and the rest of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of Guj. at, because it is on these lines that the development councils are sought to be established under the article.

Mr. Speaker: Hon Members put the question in such a manner that it is difficult for the Ministers to answer. If the hon Member instead of using the expressions "chipping, chopping", cutting, sizing and scissoring, had only asked whether such sub-divisions are or are not in the spirit of the general direction given, or that a larger zonal area should have been created or kept independently according to the existing territories, it could have been answered. What is the answer of the hon. Minister.

Shri Datar: It is only for the purpose of administrative convenience