

(b) if so, whether payments thereof have since been made; and

(c) what is the total amount proposed to be distributed among such sufferers?

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

(a) to (c). Recommendations for grant of financial assistance to some political sufferers were received from the Himachal Pradesh Administration in March, 1962. They were returned to the Administration for clarification of some points and supplying full particulars in respect of the persons recommended. Their reply is awaited.

#### **Fire in some Government Offices in H.P.**

**3726. Shri Pratap Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is within the knowledge of Government that the P.W.D. Godown and other Government Offices were destroyed by fire in Mandi District (Himachal Pradesh) in the middle of May, 1962;

(b) whether the cause of fire has been investigated; and

(c) what is the approximate loss?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The cause of fire is under investigation.

(c) The approximate loss is Rupees 1,72,700.

#### **Rural University in Andhra**

**3727. Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been made to Government of Andhra Pradesh for starting a Rural University in that State by the Deputy Minister of Education;

(b) whether any discussion has taken place on this question between the Deputy Minister during her visit to Andhra Pradesh this month and the State Government; and

(c) what is the help that the Centre can extend to the State Government in this matter?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Education Minister of Andhra Pradesh enquired from the Deputy Minister whether it was possible to start a Rural Institute in the private sector. He was informed that it would be possible only during the Fourth Plan period.

(c) The Central Government meets 75 per cent of the non-recurring and 50 per cent of the recurring approved expenditure leaving the rest to be met by the parent body or State Government.

#### **Amendment of Delimitation of Legislative Council Constituency Order, Andhra Pradesh**

**3728. Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission sought the opinion of the State Legislature and mainly the State Legislative Council before issue of orders in 1961 amending the Delimitation of Legislative Council Constituency Order (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Election Commission had consulted the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is their opinion?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra):** (a) to (d). Although under sections 12 and 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Election Commission is not required to seek the opinion of the State Legislature or the State Government or any other body or authority before