

busy in booking and reservation offices in bigger cities for as long as half-an-hour to forty-five minutes, passengers seeking information on phone are put to great difficulty; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines are fully aware of the inconvenience caused by the delay in getting the booking offices on telephone due to the telephone lines being busy. There are instructions to the regions for constant review of the telephone requirements and additional telephones are provided wherever necessary, subject to availability.

Separate State for Adivasis of Dangs in Gujarat

7591. **SHRI Z. M. KHANDOLE :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to neglect of the problems of the Adivasis of hilly Dangs area by the Gujarat State, an opposition M. L. A. of Gujarat Vidhan Sabha has demanded a separate Adivasi State; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard their interests and to promote the welfare of backward people there ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) and (b). Facts are being ascertained from the State Government.

I. C. S. Officers who were granted Annuity in Pound Sterling

7592. **SHRI C. C. DESAI :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-Indian and Indian officers of the I. C. S. who retired after the 15th August, 1947, and before the 26th January, 1950, and were granted annuity in pound sterling ;

(b) the number of non-Indian and Indian Officers of the I. C. S. who retired after the 26th January, 1950 and before 12th June, 1956 and were granted annuity in pound sterling ;

(c) the number of such officers who retired after the 12th June, 1956 and were granted annuity as referred to above ; and

(d) whether Government have paid any annuity to an Indian Officer of the I. C. S. in pound sterling converted into Indian rupees after April, 1957 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (d). In accordance with article 974 of the Civil Service Regulations, an I.C.S. Officer has to apply to the State Government, on whose cadre he is borne, for sanction of annuity and annuity is sanctioned by the State Government. Therefore, the Government of India do not have any information regarding the annuity sanctioned to the I. C. S. Officers from time to time. Collection of this information from the State Governments and the audit officers in respect of officers who have retired over such a long period will involve labour and expense which may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Expansion of Coastal Shipping

7593. **SHRI N.R. DEOGHARE :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not paid adequate attention to, and shown interest in, the problem of expansion of coastal shipping in spite of the recommendations of several sub-Committees of the National Shipping Board and other Committees ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. The problem of maintaining a viable and efficient coastal fleet has been constantly engaging the attention of Government. But it has not been possible so far to undertake any