

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As I said, 76 cases are pending for report from the State Government. I shall impress upon the hon. Member who belongs to the ruling party there to get us the reports. I shall give him copies of all the reminders I have given to the Assam Government for expediting their reports. On receipt of the requisite information, I would be too placed to sanction the pension. In the past, in the special drive, 70000 cases were received and considered. We have sanctioned pension in 1500 cases and from Assam, we have sanctioned pension in 101 cases. Also, after that if fresh documents and evidence are given, we are considering those cases. As I said, for the State of Assam, we have sanctioned 101 cases in the special drive.

Now, a special Committee has been constituted under the presidentship of Shri Satyendra Nath Sinha. In respect of cases from East Bengal originally and where records are not available, on the recommendation of this non-official Committee, we shall consider those cases.

I fully appreciate the concern of the hon. Member in respect of political sufferers. I come from a family of political sufferers. My father and my uncle were political sufferers. Therefore, I know what a political sufferer is and the hon. Member need not worry about that.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Whenever we put a question to the Ministers, their replies are very vague. They do not give a time-bound reply that such and such matter would be disposed of by such and such date. Earlier, I had written to Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, the then concerned Minister pointing out a specific case from Bihar and that case has not been considered as yet. People approached me and I wrote to the Hon. Minister, but that case has not been disposed of as yet.

So far as Assam is concerned, Assam people are always getting step-motherly treatment from the Central Government. Unless you pay special attention to the people of Assam, you will not long last. Your Party will meet its natural death.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There are some people from Assam who suffer from inferiority complex. That should not be there. This Government do not have any particular attitude for any specific region...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, about the particular case the Hon. Member referred, he can write to me and I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the plight of freedom fighters is miserable. The Department is not making any efforts in this direction. No reply is received from the Department despite giving several reminders. A number of such cases are pending. Therefore a discussion should be allowed on it. I request you to allow a half-an-hour discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will do it.

[English]

Birth Centenary Celebrations of Outstanding Personalities

*150. PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been organising birth centenary celebrations of outstanding personalities of national stature;

(b) whether Government are aware that birth centenaries of eminent men such as Acharya J.B. Kriplani, Dr. C.V. Raman and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlew also fall in 1988; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken at the national level to celebrate the birth centenaries of these eminent personalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Implementation Committee for the Commemoration of Fortieth Anniversary of India's Independence and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary has been entrusted with the nodal responsibility for the commemoration of the Centenaries of eminent personalities including Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Dr. C.V. Raman and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, which fall within the period 1987-90 in cooperation with the Department of Culture.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that as far as Acharya J. B. Kriplani is concerned, no steps were taken at all regarding the celebration of his centenary. The centenary birthday was on 11 Nov. which has already gone and nothing was done. When I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, after long time from his return tour, I got the acknowledgement that needful will be done. Sir, I would like to point out to the young Minister that Acharya Kriplani was the President of the Indian National Congress at a time when on behalf of the Congress a decision of the Congress to accept the Mountbatten's plan and accept the transfer of power was communicated. He was one of the most top ranking officials and also a participant of the freedom struggle. Let me know why no step have been taken at all regarding the centenary of Acharya Kriplani and if you think steps have been taken, I would like to know what steps have been taken.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): It is wrong to say that no steps have been taken. In consultation with the Central Committee the Gujarat Government has constituted a Committee at the State level to celebrate the birth centenary of Acharya Kriplani. As soon as I get the details I will furnish them to the Hon. Member.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I strongly object to it. Acharya Kriplani, Prof. Ranga, will bear me out, was an outstanding personality. He was a right hand man of Mahatma Gandhi for 25 years in the freedom struggle and in the Indian National

Congress as the General Secretary. Why such an All-India personality's centenary should be entrusted to the State? And, further I would like to know from the Hon. Minister is it not a fact that Shri Ganga Charan Sinha, an eminent freedom fighter wrote to the Government for the celebration of the centenary of late Acharya Narendra Deva, a veteran freedom fighter, a doyen among the socialists, a colleague of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Ahmednagar jail, a Member of the Working Committee during the freedom struggle and also a person about whom in 'Discovery of India' Pandit Nehru wrote, "I could write this book because there were two encyclopaedias available at my disposal; one is Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and the other is Acharya Narendra Deva." While such a man deserves his centenary to be celebrated at an all-India level, Shri Ganga Sinha received a letter from the bureaucrat, not from a Minister, that it has been entrusted to the U.P. Government to make necessary preparation for the centenary of Acharya Narendra Deva.

I would like to remind the Prime Minister that Acharya Narendra Deva was one among those colleagues of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was greatly respected. He said it in the Parliament, outside and in the 'Discovery of India'. Will they revive their decision and try to do something at an all-India level because Acharya Narendra Deva was not a provincial personality but he was a top ranking freedom fighter and a national leader of this country?

S. BUTA SINGH: This august House will be pleased to know that as many as 14 leaders of the national fame are there whose birth centenaries fall within this year and the action has been taken. They are:

- (1) Shri K. M. Munshi
- (2) Dr. A. Radhakrishnan
- (3) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- (4) Shri Asaf Ali
- (5) Shri B. G. Kher

- (6) Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew
- (7) Sir C. V. Raman
- (8) Acharya J. B. Kriplani
- (9) Shri G. V. Mavalankar
- (10) Acharya Narendra Deva
- (11) Kshudiram Bose
- (12) Shri Jamnalal Bajaj
- (13) Smt. Rajakumari Amrit Kaur and
- (14) Shri Sarat Chandra Bose

The Central Committee has already started taking action about it. After all, as you know, the State Government's involvement cannot be just wished away, the State Governments are very much important. The States are part and parcel of our country. If it happens to be the birth place of a great leader in a particular State and the State Government is keen to celebrate that centenary, how can we not allot that programme to a particular State? If State celebrates it, how is it different from the national celebration? Therefore, we are in cooperation with the various States, are preparing a plan and we will be celebrating the centenary of all the 14 leaders that I have mentioned just now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not replied to my question. The centenary of our national stature leader like Acharya Narendra Deva is not being celebrated at an all-India level; he has avoided that. He said that the State is doing it.

S. BUTA SINGH: As I said, the celebration will be on a nation-wide scale, but the States are the nodal agencies. The States have to carry out certain programmes which the Central Committee will give them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had been alive, he would have resented to it.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: The hon. Minister has mentioned the name of Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew also. Several non-official committees are functioning but privately in Punjab, in Delhi, Amritsar and in other places. He was one of the two heroes of the Jallianwala Bagh Movement - Dr. Satya Paul and Dr. Kitchlew; both of them were sentenced to death. It was commuted later on. Dr. Kitchlew's whole property was confiscated. His two sons are rotting here without any help either for housing or for any other financial arrangement. Would the Minister look into the misery of his two sons? At the same time, Dr. Kitchlew was a man of standing, who was not only the President of the Punjab Congress but later on he became the General Secretary of the All India Congress. He was the first winner of the Lenin Prize. We have no official programme to celebrate his birthday. I would request the Minister to kindly look into it. It is the State of the Home Minister also from where he came.

S. BUTA SINGH: It is a fact that his son's housing problem came to us. We are thinking of allotting him a house out of the freedom fighters' quota. We know Dr. Kitchlew's contribution to the national freedom movement especially in Punjab. I agree with Dr. Dhillon that he is one of our most eminent and respected leaders. In collaboration with the State Government, we will definitely celebrate the centenary of Dr. Kitchlew at the national level.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: I have written about Dr. K. K. Shah. He was one of the most eminent economists who had the courage to stand up for Indian National Economics apart from the Imperialist Economics, which was being expounded by most of the Professors in our country. He was the General Secretary of the Planning Committee also and a member of the Constituent Assembly. I got a reply that the State Government may take it up. I do not want that kind of response. Let the Central Committee allot these responsibilities to various States; we should not leave it to the States. I have no objection to the States being enthusiastic in celebrating these things. May I make a suggestion? Under

those circumstances, either the Prime Minister or the President or the Vice-President should be asked to preside over those celebrations so that we can assure the country that we are giving national recognition to these eminent patriots and servants of our country.

S. BUTA SINGH: What the Hon. Prof. Ranga has suggested is right. It was under the Chairmanship of Rashtrapatiji, and the Vice-President that this decision was taken that we should celebrate the birth centenary of these national leaders at the national level with the State Governments as the nodal agencies and we are following that very scheme and this decision was taken by a committee headed by Rashtrapatiji.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

News-item Regarding Nuclear Weapons with Indian Air Force

*144. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a recent report published in Defence and Foreign Affairs Weekly, London, alleging that India is inducting nuclear bombs into its Air Force and a special cell has been formed at the Air Headquarters for perfecting delivery techniques; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the news item.

(b) The Directorate of Public Relations in the Ministry of Defence has issued a Press Note on 4 Oct. 88 characterising the story as completely false and politically motivated.

Visit of Chinese Delegation

*147. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Chinese delegation on Civil Aviation visited India recently and held discussion with its counterpart;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Air Services Talks held at official level between the two countries. The need for increased contacts between the national carriers to explore areas of cooperation was emphasised. Operation of charter flights as well as scheduled flights was also discussed.

Workshop on 'Police-Community Relations'

*148. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Third Workshop on 'Police-Community Relations' was held in the first week of October, 1988 at New Delhi;

(b) what were the special features and the points discussed at the Workshop; and

(c) what steps are proposed in the light of discussions held at the workshop to bring about improvements in the police and paramilitary forces?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.