

Shri P. K. Deo: The hon. Minister did not speak about the employment of Adibasi labour in the construction programmes.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We welcome it. As a matter of fact, I have said more than once in the House that I will welcome the works to be undertaken by co-operatives of the workers. But in that area, as the hon. Member is aware, in most part of it is will not be possible for a small co-operative to undertake the work because it is a very difficult area where heavy earth-moving machinery will be required. But so far as the plain portion is concerned I will request the hon. Member and other friends that if they can organise labour co-operatives of the Adibasis and others, I will be only too happy to give these works to them and not to the contractors.

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura): There was a provision in the Budget to construct a new railway line from Patharkhandi to Dharmnagar in Tripura. May I know what is the progress of that and when it is expected that the line would be constructed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: During the Third Five Year Plan.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think Shri T. B. Vittal Rao wants me to put the cut motions to the House.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: No.

The cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1961, in respect of Demand No. 15—Construction of New Lines."

The motion was adopted.

13.11 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I want to make a small announcement regarding the Panel of Chairmen. I have requested them and they will now constitute the Panel of Chairmen:—

1. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava
2. Dr. Sushila Nayar
3. Shri Mulchand Dube
4. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty
5. Shri Heda
6. Shri Jaganatha Rao.

13.12 hrs.

DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS,
1957-58

DEMAND NO. 1—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 64,572 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce and Industry' for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958."

DEMAND NO. 15—SURVEY OF INDIA

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 2,96,550 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Survey of India' for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958."

DEMAND NO. 49—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Rs. 55,123 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of 'Public Health' for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958."

DEMAND No. 55—CENSUS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 80 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Census’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 60—MANIPUR

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 8,63,045 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Manipur’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 61—TRIPURA

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 31,36,333 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Tripura’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 67—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 4,327 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Ministry of Irrigation and Power’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 87—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 18,057 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Overseas Communications Service’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 90—COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING NATIONAL HIGHWAYS)

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 19,28,774 be granted to the President to make

good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Communications (Including National Highways) for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 94—OTHER CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 191,01,750 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Other Civil Works, for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

DEMAND No. 123—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a sum of Rs. 30,93,610 be granted to the President to make good an excess on the grant in respect of ‘Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power’ for the year ended 31st day of March, 1958.”

Mr. Speaker: Any cut motions? No.

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura): I am speaking on Demand No. 61 regarding Excess Demand for the Tripura State. In this Demand it is stated that the excess under ‘Land Revenue’ was due to the expenditure incurred on the resettlement of jhumias which required urgent attention. A sum of Rs. 9.58 lakhs is proposed to be sanctioned. It is true that this settlement is very important and very urgent.

13.12 hrs.

[SHRI HEDA in the Chair]

I should certainly certify that the amount should be granted. At the same time, I want to say some things about the progress of the settlement work and also how it should be carried out in our State. First of all, I should say that the Administrator himself

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could not come to a decision as to how the problem could be tackled and how they should be settled, because there is some confusion in the Plan itself. Tripura is directly under the Centre. When a Chief Commissioner is posted there, he frames one plan. When he is replaced by another Chief Commissioner, he takes another plan. In this way, for the last six years, we have had three plans. Firstly, they wanted to settle the jhumias individually in plain lands where land is available. They carried on in this pattern for 1½ years. After that, they found that it was not possible for them to settle jhumias individually. So, they wanted to settle them in large areas in colonies, that is, 60 to 100 families in concentrated areas. They abandoned their individual settlement scheme.

They set up certain colonies. But, in carrying out this work, they found another difficulty. Land was not available in such concentrated areas. Ultimately, they selected tilla land, that is, high land to settle the jhumia families. But, irrigation was not possible there because no water is available in high land. They did not want to settle the jhumia in two or three families wherever land is available. They could not settle them in plain lands. They should be settled in plain lands where water is available and there are irrigation facilities. They do not want to do it. In this way, they are carrying on for some years.

What happened is this. Number of Jhumias settled in the tilla lands have deserted their colonies. Some had to leave to find alternative occupation, some had to leave to cultivate other's lands as share-croppers or to work as daily wage-earners. Or, they had to go elsewhere to find suitable land for jhumia cultivation. All these jhumia colonies have been deserted.

To carry out welfare work in Tripura, they have an Advisory Board. This Board has no power. The Chief Commissioner calls a meeting of the

Board once a year. He gives some report about their work and then the meeting is dissolved. The views of the members of the Board are hardly heard. I suggest that this scheme should be re-examined. To expedite jhumia resettlement work, I suggest that they should not be settled in large colonies. In the plains, wherever there is land, these should be settled, one family or two family or three families like this. I know every corner of Tripura. It may be possible to have land in the plains for two or three families. It is not possible to have lands for accommodating or absorbing 60 or 80 or 100 families in one place. Only tilla land is available. That is unsuitable for jhum cultivation. After settlement in the tilla land, our Government is not able to provide irrigation facilities. Irrigation in tilla land is very costly. I do not think the Government can immediately provide that. Jhumia settlement in tilla land is meaningless. We must abandon that.

The Tripura Administration then wanted to settle them under another scheme. In the first year, they will select certain places tehsil-wise, in certain districts and they want to settle the jhumias in that particular area. Next year, they will select certain other areas and they will go on in this way. This is also dangerous. This is not practicable. Our State is divided into ten sub-divisions and so many tehsils. If they work like this, it will take 20, 25 or 30 years. People of particular areas will have to wait for jhumia settlement for 25 years. This scheme is quite unworkable. I had a talk with the Chief Commissioner. They stick to their plan that they will select certain areas. If they carry on jhumia resettlement work in this way, I am afraid, actually, this resettlement work will not be completed and also jhumias will not get much benefit out of that. So many jhumias are there. My suggestion is that the Tripura administration should collect data about these jhumias. There are several categories among

them, and some are absolutely poor. Such people must be given priority in the matter of rehabilitation over others, but the Administration is not proceeding that way.

Each jhumia family is given Rs. 500 and that too in two instalments—Rs. 300 in the first year and the rest in the second or third year—but that is quite inadequate, and a poor family cannot be economically rehabilitated on that, particularly when things are so dear. How can you rehabilitate on Rs. 500 these poor people who have no plough, no land, nothing of the sort?

Under the refugee rehabilitation scheme, the refugee families were given much larger sums and even with that it has become a fiasco, and they have not been economically settled. They are still starving and suffering. So, how can the administration hope to rehabilitate the jhumias with Rs. 500 per family, which is a much smaller amount? They should learn from past experience, and allot not less than Rs. 2,000 per family, and also plain land. They are now trying to settle them on *tila* land. East Bengal refugees were settled on *tila* land. Only in the first year they could cultivate something on it. In the second and third year, it loses fertility and does not yield much, and most of the refugees cannot produce good crop there to feed themselves. Government must learn from that also, and not settle these jhumias on *tila* land, but on plain land.

There is a lot of corruption in the Administration in Tripura, and practically no jhumia applicant can get land or grant without the help of touts who act as middlemen between the applicants and the officers. They collect money from the applicants, give part of it to the officers, and get the grants from the Administration for the applicants. Without giving money, no jhumia can ever dream of getting any kind of grant from Government. I have written to the District Magistrate and the Chief Commissioner a

number of times, mentioning names and details that such and such a person has collected so much money from such and such a person. The only reply that I get is that my letter is receiving attention, and that adequate measures are being taken. The touts are still there, they have not been driven away.

Recently, there was an instance where Rs. 3,000 were collected from jhumias, and grants of Rs. 500 each for 86 persons were thus obtained. I reported the matter to the District Magistrate three or four months before, but I find the touts still loitering there and collecting money from others. Instead of being punished, they are getting a bridegroom's reception. This must be stopped.

If the agreed payment is not made to the tout, he falsifies the name and gives the sanction to some body else. I have drawn attention to such a case also. It has been pending for the last three years and no action has been taken in that respect.

Most of the touts, unfortunately, belong to certain political parties, and are exploiting the situation. I think this type of thing, particularly in dealing with the rehabilitation of poor jhumias, should be stopped.

That is why many times in this House I have demanded that Tripura should not be under Chief Commissioner's rule, and that it should have its own legislative assembly, so that the Administration will be answerable to the people there. Now the Administration is bureaucratic and has to answer nobody except the Home Minister and some officers in New Delhi. It is 1,200 miles away, and some officer writes something from there and on the basis of that replies are being given here, and we get mostly incorrect reports. So, the fate of these ten lakhs of people in Tripura should not be left in one man's hands.

At one time there was talk of Tripura being merged with Assam. After the recent happenings in Assam, that

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idea should be dispelled. If they force the merger of Tripura with Assam, they would be committing a very serious blunder. In the recent happenings there, democracy has been butchered; rowdyism was going on and the rights of minorities have been trampled down; most of the leaders of Assam Government were participants directly in the incidents and our Central Government has been a silent spectator. It even refused to set up a judicial enquiry.

That is why I have come to the conclusion that they should give up the idea of merging Tripura or Manipur with Assam. Our people should be given a legislative assembly and the right to settle their own fate. Otherwise, you cannot have good administration, nor execute your plans through this bureaucratic machinery.

Another point is about education.

In the education budget, some amount is allotted for education, but in our State, the educational programme is not being carried out well. As you know, Sir, the number of literates in our parts is very small; their number is very meagre, and particularly, the rural people or the tribal people are generally backward. After passing the primary stage, the people who are living in the rural areas and the people who are coming from the tribal areas could hardly get any chance to receive the higher secondary education, the reason being absence of proper hostel arrangements. People cannot come from the hill areas just to attend schools in the towns. Most of the higher secondary schools, and the senior basic and junior basic schools are situated in the town area, and the rural people and the tribal people cannot come to the towns just to attend schools. Only about three hundred tribal people can be accommodated in a hostel throughout the Tripura State, where the tribal population is more than three lakhs; and there is not a single school which provides hostel facilities for the

Muslim students. The result is that these people cannot pursue their education; after passing the primary stage, they have to keep quiet in their own villages. I hope the Administration will take some steps in this behalf.

Regarding girl students, particularly from the tribal areas, a lot of them are coming forward to pursue their education, but there is not a single tribal girls' hostel throughout the Tripura State. In the budget, there is provision for other purposes, but there is no provision for this. Therefore, I urge Government that they should take up this question also and do something in the matter. They cannot talk of spreading education and spreading literacy if in actual practice they cannot do anything concrete.

Now, I would like to say a word about the Agartala M. B. B. College. That is also a very funny thing. I have written to the Education Minister a number of times regarding the allegations against the existing authorities of the Agartala M. B. B. College. There is a certain number of cliques or groups there, and these groups are holding the whole power; and even though a good many eminent professors come from outside Tripura, nobody stays there for more than two or three months, and they have to leave the college because no facility is provided to them. That is why the standard of education also is decreasing there, and we are not having a number of good professors there. I wrote to the Education Minister submitting to him a long list of charges running to about a hundred pages containing allegations of a specific nature, and requested him to enquire into all these matters, but I believe only some departmental enquiry was held or something like that, and I do not know what the result is. That is the way things are going on in that State. This kind of situation cannot be tolerated.

If Government want to give education to the people of Tripura, and if they want to increase the standard of education in that State, then they must provide good arrangements, and if any allegation is made against any particular officer, from whichever corner or whichever party it may come, Government must investigate it, and if the particular officer is found guilty, then he must be punished.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal (Uluberia): The same sorry state of affairs exists in another Union Territory, namely Manipur. In this connection, I would like to speak on Demand No. 60 regarding payments of certain extra sums for Manipur.

The main difficulty in Manipur is scarcity of drinking water. The Imphal Water-works scheme is in a sorry state of affairs, and there has been no improvement in the supply of any water to the people, whether it be drinking-water or aerated water. The present scheme which obtains now was started by the British engineers about thirty years ago, and that has continued till now. But that can scarcely stand the pressure of the present population which is going up very rapidly in the State of Manipur. The Central Public Works Department started a project at Koirangi and a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was invested on this project. But, after a lapse of more than five years, we find that the scheme has not been implemented, and the work has been going on in a niggardly fashion; and even the Manipur P.W.D. did not take charge of that scheme. In the mid-way this scheme was given up after huge expenses had been incurred thereon, in favour of a better scheme to be evolved by them subsequently.

Under the first scheme, the construction of head-works and the servicing of reservoirs were to be completed by December, 1959, and the water from that system was to have been supplied by March, 1960. But, after proceeding half-way, that scheme

was given up, although it had involved a sum of at least one lakh of rupees.

As I have stated earlier, the water supply position in Imphal is very precarious, and it is very difficult for the people of Imphal to get supply points. As has been pointed out by my hon. friend Shri Dasaratha Deb, in Tripura, the Administration is so corrupt that it is impossible for the people to get any amenities or any privileges. The same conditions exists in Manipur also. There, water taps are provided in adequate number only to high officials and other persons who are known to the Chief Administrator, but only one water-tap is supplied for about five hundred people; that is quite inadequate. The people of Manipur are consequently suffering from dysentery and other bowel disorders. When we met the doctors in the Manipur hospital, they told us that 90 per cent of the diseases from which the Manipur people were suffering were due to water-borne bacilli.

In these circumstances, it is quite urgent that the demand for the supply of water in Manipur should be immediately met, and the scheme which has been recently revised should be immediately implemented.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East): I also want to add my little voice on the point of Manipur, not on a particular grievance, but on the great ferment that has gripped the people of Manipur today. I am speaking of the demand for responsible government, over which the people of Manipur today are very gravely agitated. This demand from a small State, a very small corner of India is not a brain-wave or an afterthought, but is rooted very deep in the history and traditions of Manipur.

I think we all know that the people of Manipur have a very distinct culture and very distinct traditions. We are all aware of the great music and

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dance, the fascinating music and dance which they have contributed to the part of India, the beautiful creation on the handloom, and all that which we see about it. This contribution of Manipur makes the culture of Manipur one of the splendid jewels in the diverse array of jewels which Indian culture represents. In the background of it is the legend of the Mahabharata which tells us about the great Princess Chitrangada and her son Babruwahan.

Now that has implanted in the people of Manipur a sense of their distinctiveness, of their cultural heritage, and they are justly proud of it and conscious of it. People with this consciousness, with this pride in their cultural heritage would naturally demand that they should be allowed the right to shape their own development in their own way in accordance with their distinct culture and traditions. That is why the demand for responsible government manifested itself even before the last war. They did not relish the idea that they should be kept as slaves of a Maharaja. They desired responsible government. They fought for it. The women took a very important part in the struggle. The demand which they made before the war was then supported by the Indian National Congress—It was made by the Manipur Mahasabha and was supported by the Indian National Congress. This demand was won finally after the war and the Manipur Constitution Act of 1947 was passed. Responsible government was won with an Assembly of 53 members who were entirely elected in 1948. The great pride that the Manipuris can take is that when in the rest of India we were still clinging to the 13 per cent franchise that the British had allowed us, when the Congress Government had repeatedly spurned the request to introduce adult franchise in the bye-elections that took place in those days, at that time in 1948, Manipur was the only

proud place in India where the election to a legislature was held on the basis of adult franchise and a legislature of 53 members was elected.

That happened in 1948, but in October, 1949, all that achievement was undone. The Government of India took over the administration in Manipur. Instead of fostering this brilliant achievement, instead of helping them to better the responsible government they had won, it was unceremoniously abolished. In 1950, Part C States were created and many of them got legislatures and responsible government, but Manipur which had struggled for long for responsible government was completely denied responsible government. Now, this was naturally resented and even the Manipur State Congress had to pass a resolution in 1953 demanding responsible government by 1954. The Congress High Command, of course, took no notice of it.

Mr. Chairman: I may remind the hon. Member that when we are discussing only the excess demands, lengthy reference to the demand for responsible government may not be very relevant? There may be other occasions for him to make such a reference. A passing reference at this stage is quite different.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: But, Sir, we are discussing Manipur.

Mr. Chairman: No. The two excess demands before the House are: expenditure on the Eastern Frontier Rifles deployed in Manipur Rs. 6.95 lakhs, and public health-development scheme Rs. 3.04 lakhs.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: These references would be necessary in connection with the demand relating to the Eastern Frontier Rifles because the demand for responsible government is now being repressed by the use of the Eastern Frontier Rifles. That is how it becomes important. They are being used to suppress that demand.

That is what has happened. They put their case before the States Re-organisation Commission and the only dispensation that they got was a Territorial Council. Now the Territorial Council is no substitute for a responsible government; it is even a caricature of democracy because the power of the Territorial Council is less perhaps than even that of a District Board. But what did Manipur get in return for this? Do you think efficient administration? Not at all. It has got something like a colonial administration, people ruling it from 1500 miles away with agents deputed for the purpose, agents who were not even efficient as the British have claimed their colonial administration to be and as the Congress has recognised the claim after independence. They had not even the same efficiency. The memorandum submitted by the Assembly Demands Co-ordination Committee to the President shows how every department including Education, Industry, CPWD, Public Health and others, has become a sink of corruption. The Civil Hospital, for instance, is short of beds, equipment and medicine, and a black market in medicines is going on. Apart from that, even the Assistant Surgeon is low paid, not to speak of the other staff. So the staff is discontented.

The handloom industry is going more and more into the grip of the wholesalers and these wholesalers are manipulating the trade to the detriment of the weavers. The co-operatives have fallen into undesirable hands and are in a bad way. The food situation there is calamitous. You know Manipur is a surplus State. At the end of May or beginning of June, rice usually sells at Rs. 9 or Rs. 10 a maund. When I was there this year about that time, the price of rice had gone up to Rs. 35 a maund. In three months from February, it shot up from Rs. 12 to Rs. 35, and this is about the most spectacular achievement of the Manipur Administration!

Then the Manipuris also have a heart-burning because the cream of

the administrative posts goes to people hundreds of miles away, people who are even farther from the aspirations of the Manipuris than the distance which separates their home from Manipur. A Press communique issued by the Publicity Officer shows that 132 outsiders are paid about Rs. 4,89,000 while 5,588 Manipuris in Government employment are paid about Rs. 45,11,000. This works out in the case of the outsiders to about Rs. 309 per month and in the case of the Manipuris to the magnificent figure of Rs. 67 per month.

During my short stay in Manipur, I came across curious cases where the Administration acted without the slightest regard for the law. In one case, action had been taken against a jailor. The Judicial Commissioner had quashed the action. The same action was revived against the jailor. In the face of the clear judgment of the Judicial Commissioner, and again it had to be quashed by the Judicial Commissioner, much to the harassment of the jailor and, I should add, to my own profit also.

The Plan expenditure that has been sanctioned has been sanctioned on a fairly liberal scale, but it has all been mis-spent. A large part of it has gone to the construction of officers' quarters and another large part to non-developmental expenditure, so that for the development of Manipur very little has been spent.

No avenues have been created—nothing has been done—to give the Manipuris more facilities for earning a livelihood, for creating more employment potential.

Shri Ghosal has just referred to the water-works. That is another scandal. It was taken up; it was abandoned; and now the pipes lie all over Imphal to show where money has flowed instead of water.

There is very small wonder that, under these circumstances, the demand for responsible government should be

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universal. No Manipuri is there to oppose that demand; no one can oppose that demand. Agitation is being conducted under the aegis of the Assembly Demands Co-ordination Committee which is a representative committee. The Congress, of course, is officially outside the movement—very naturally—but it fully supports the demand. The President of the State Congress, Mr. Salam Tombe Singh, in a statement issued to the *Eastern Express* has stated this, from which you will see how the Congress is in support.

“The State Congress has been persistently writing to the Government of India and the Congress High Command for the transfer of more power to the people and the maintenance of statehood of Manipur and for the establishment of a fully democratic form of government here.”

Then, after some time, he continues:

“We are taking up measures such as sending deputations to the Government of India and the Congress High Command for the sure transfer of power to the people to the greatest possible extent.”

Now, this is the attitude of the Congress, officially.

As regards ordinary congressmen, be it said to their credit that they are fully in the movement; and the *Eastern Express* to which I have referred, itself a Congress paper under the control of a former colleague of ours, Shri L. Jogeshwar Singh, is the champion of the movement.

The movement has been uniquely peaceful; there have been huge demonstrations and no breach of the peace has occurred except where the police has provoked it. And, even then, it is wonderful how peaceful it has remained in spite of the grave

provocations given. The satyagrahis who go in batches of 8 or 9 are brutally beaten up. The Eastern Frontier Rifles are one of the machinery used for beating them up. Besides these, others have been introduced from Bengal and Bihar, the Armed Police from West Bengal and the Armed Police from Bihar, besides the Manipuri Rifles and the Assam Rifles and so on. The result is that the people of Manipur openly say that they are not only ruled from outside but are even beaten up by outsiders. This is a very unfortunate thing. By seeking to crush the people in this way, by seeking to crush their just and genuine grievances, you only break their emotional integration with India because if you go on thwarting their rightful aspirations by the force of lathis, tear-gas and bullets, you cannot but grievously endanger the unity of India. Therefore, this must be looked at from that point of view and not from the narrow point of view of teaching the people a lesson.

I have had some experience of how satyagraha is dealt with. While I was there, there was a demonstration in the bazar. True, it was in defiance of section 144. But, you will remember that without peaceful defiance of order violating civil liberty no demand can be won from the Government. Government will not listen to honest and just persuasions from any quarter. In the bazar I saw tear-gas shells being fired by the police. They withdrew late at night; and thereafter nothing at all happened.

I had also occasion to visit the prisoners; and may I tell you to their great credit that every prisoner assured me that although it was a demand for responsible government, although it was a demand for Manipuris to be allowed more share in the administration, for Manipuris to be allowed to have the direction of their own affairs, it is not a communal

movement. They were determined, they said, to fight against communalism should it make its appearance in Manipur.

While I was in Manipur I saw that communalism was far from the movement; sectarianism was far from the movement. It was a movement based on democracy; it was inspired only by considerations of democracy which one can well appreciate.

Under those circumstances, I would wish that this movement was taken seriously here and negotiations were opened with the representatives of the people of Manipur to see what kind of power could be transferred to them.

I know I might be met with the answer that under the Constitution responsible government cannot be granted to Manipur. As a lawyer, I am quite acutely conscious of the fact that constitutionally we cannot introduce responsible government in a Union territory. But, there is no reason why the Constitution cannot be amended; it has been amended so many times, sometimes to please vested interests also and sometimes to take away the fundamental rights. Why cannot the Constitution be amended for a just purpose, to grant responsible government where it is due?

It might be said that Manipur is not a viable State. I cannot understand this kind of argument where responsible government is concerned. Responsible government or no responsible government, the Centre will have to finance Manipur. There is no mistake about it. If the Centre has to finance Manipur, why not finance the State under a responsible government rather than finance the State under an irresponsible administration? Apart from the democratic aspect of it, from the purely administrative aspect also there is every reason why this better method of ad-

ministering Manipur should be followed.

Corruption is bound to thrive where officers are sent from a distance and control is necessarily very loose. On the other hand, if the people have the control, if the representatives of the people have control of the officers, and it is open to the criticism of the Assembly and so forth, then, it is much easier to control corruption at top levels and even at bottom levels. That way responsible government is bound to be a better government than the rule of the Chief Commissioner imposed from 1500 miles away.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): May I submit, Sir, that the scope of discussion on Excess Demands is very limited. Even with regard to the Assam Rifles, only the amount which was paid to the West Bengal Government Police force for suppressing the Naga hostile activities is within the scope of this Grant. I do not know how the hon. Member there is speaking in a very general manner about the constitutional status of Manipur and Tripura States. I do not know how it arises out of this.

Mr. Chairman: Earlier, I had reminded the hon. Member about the limited scope; and I was thinking that he was winding up his speech.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I told you how the Eastern Rifles were used to suppress this demand for responsible government. That is why I went at length on it. But I have nearly come to the end. As I said, responsible government would be a better way of administering. True, the salaries of the legislators and the Ministers may be about Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 lakhs more. That is a paltry sum; but, at the same time, it will save a great amount of waste which is caused by official unimaginativeness and also through official corruption. That is why I would press Government not to stand on the question of prestige or false

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theories of viability, to grant Manipur responsible government and to open negotiations for the purpose.

14 hrs.

Shri B. C. Kamble (Kopergaon): Sir, I would like to make a few observations in regard to Demand Nos. 60 and 90. It has been stated that an excess demand of Rs. 6.8 lakhs is in respect of the cost of additional units of the Eastern Frontier Rifles. Naturally, one would like to know how many units were originally employed and how many additional units were employed and what were the circumstances under which additional units were required. Were the additional units required, as my hon. friend has said, in order to suppress the people's movement or on account of the hostile activities of the Nagas? If that is so under Demand No. 90, it has been said that there are certain inescapable works in the Naga Hills and therefore, an amount of about Rs. 4 lakhs had to be spent. Which are these inescapable works for which provision had to be made? I am not sure whether this Demand covers any activities undertaken about which allegations have been made by Phizo. He has said that certain atrocities are committed upon the Nagas. I do not desire to say whether that allegation is correct or incorrect but so long as the allegations stand they should be adequately replied. Whether there are casualties on this side, namely, the Frontier Rifles or on the other side of the Nagas, they should be explained to the House. If the House is satisfied, then naturally the Excess Demands would be justifiable.

With regard to educational facilities, there is not a single hostel for the tribals. What are the facilities that are given in Manipur and Tripura? Primary education means very little. So long as there is no hostel provisions made for these people, there cannot be adequate education facilities

for these people. Therefore, the complaint made by the hon. Member on this side is quite correct.

A curious explanation has been given with regard to the water supply. It is said that the essential equipment necessary for the water supply was not available during the year and later on suddenly it became available. How is it? If the people are treated in this fashion and if even the essentials of life such as good water supply are not provided, how will they remain contented? It is very important that these people should enjoy responsible Government and as our Constitution provides, the autonomy of the district councils should be maintained. When rifles and the police are used for day-to-day administration, where is this autonomy? There is absolutely no responsible Government whatever. If the autonomy of the district councils is not maintained, the demand for responsible Government may arise and then even a demand for an independent State may be voiced. I would like to give a kind of a warning. The autonomy of these districts should be properly maintained as provided in the Constitution and the use of rifles and police for the day-to-day administration is not desirable.

With regard to the interest on debt, we are told that as much as Rs. 121 crores are being paid. There is an excess demand of Rs. 1.21 crores. The reason given here is that it is not possible to calculate the interest precisely. This is most surprising. What can be calculated most precisely is at least an item like interest. There can be other items about which there cannot be any precise calculations but interest can be calculated. The explanation here says that the drawal of interest is an uncertain factor and depends upon the claims actually paid during the year. The interest rate is there. The Government knows which are the dates on which the

loans expire and which are the loans that are interest-bearing. There cannot be such a vast difference to the tune of a crore of rupees. There should be more preciseness. The explanation here is surprising and funny.

With regard to the telephone charges also, there are some interesting things. We are told that the Ministry of Production did not provide for the telephone charges of its own Ministry. A Ministry which is not aware of the telephone charges to be paid for its telephones is really a funny Ministry. The reason given here is that the Ministry thought that the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel would make provision for the telephone charges. We are not able to understand how this kind of an assumption is made. The fact is that even the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel did not make that provision and now the Commerce and Industry Ministry makes provision for these charges. I think, therefore, the rules of budgeting are not followed properly and I hope that henceforth proper attention would be paid to these rules of budgeting and as far as possible such Excess Grants should be reduced to the minimum.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the general aspect relating to the decrees. There are at least four or five items indicated here in Demand Nos. 9, 28, 30 and 106. On a former occasion, I had made a few remarks about this matter during the Demands on the Ministry of Law but probably it did not draw the attention of the Government or it did not deserve that. Whatever it may be, I would like to say a few words on this question today because I find there fairly quite a number of payments relating to decrees. They are not provided in the Budget but later on we have to pay it. I have some experience with regard to Government litigation and I have appeared for the Government and more often

against the Government. That is why I am making this submission because I feel that Government can make considerable economy in this field. I feel that the matter is not properly attended to in the beginning. And subsequently, naturally, the Government not only pays the amount that is due but pays the costs also. I have experience of this personally, and that is why I am submitting that the Government must pay sufficient attention to this aspect of the question.

I only just referred to these Demands here. It may look as though the amount asked for here is not a very large amount, but if we take into consideration the entire costs incurred by the Government on this side of the Government's activities we will find that it amounts to a fairly large amount.

Let us take, for example, Demand No. 9. On page 2 of this book there is a remark which has rather intrigued me. It is said:

"No provision was included in the budget for 1957-58 to meet the costs of decrees, etc. to be awarded against the Government during the course of the year."

I am not able to clearly understand what exactly this means. Does it mean that provision was made only for costs or is it that the entire amount both on merits as well as costs was not provided for? The wording here is not clear. From the wording as it stands now it looks as if no provision was included in the budget for 1957-58 for meeting the costs of decrees etc. If it is only cost of decrees that were not provided for, did the Government anticipate that there are going to be on merits decrees against the Government and provision was made only to cover them and not the costs? Probably, that is not the case, and what is meant here is that the whole amount was not provided for because the

[Shri Achar]

Government did not expect the litigations to go against the Government. If that is so, then, of course, they would not have provided for in the budget for 1957-58.

It is here that I want to say a word or two. Very often I find—I brought it to the notice of the Law Minister also on another occasion last time—that even registered notices are not given proper attention and the parties concerned are made to wait for months and months. I will give you an instance—of course, it does not concern this particular Ministry and it concerns the Railway Ministry but, all the same, it has got relevance to this matter. I mentioned it here last year. One particular individual died at a particular railway station. He was having with him a considerable amount of jewels and other valuable things worth about Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000. The Government took charge of those things and all his jewels and other valuables were kept in the custody of Government. Petition after petition was sent to the authorities by his heir but nobody attended to them. Months passed, and after some months a registered notice was sent. It was said that it had to be established that the person concerned had a proper title to the property. He was asked to obtain a succession certificate. The party applied and obtained the required succession certificate. Now, so far as title to any property, especially movable assets, is concerned, everybody knows that a succession certificate is a title against the whole world and anybody can pay to the person who has got a succession certificate. In this particular case, after obtaining the succession certificate the party sent another registered notice. There was no response. What happens in such cases? In this case a suit was about to be filed, but was averted because the matter was brought to the notice of a Member of Parliament who wrote to the Railway Minister. The Minister

asked him to wait for a little more time and the matter was settled without any suit being filed in the court. But as I said, very often it happens that even after sending registered notices the matter is not decided and the party concerned goes to the court of law. In such cases not only the amount due is paid but also the costs. I have experience of this matter with regard to the income-tax department also, but I will not take away the time of the House on that question.

My point is this. So far as the Government is concerned—I do not know what the reason is, but often it happens that even registered notices are not attended to—when a party sends a registered notice saying that on merits he has a good case, the Government has got very good legal advisers, it can take proper legal advice and take the necessary steps to see that decrees are not obtained against the Government. There may be doubtful cases, there may be very well contested cases where the chances may be equal for both sides. That is a different aspect.

I am not stressing this point because the amount involved is very large. My point is, I feel it is a very important item where considerable economy could be effected. I would have gone into the details of these things but, unfortunately, so far as the notes here are concerned, they do not give the full aspect of the matter at all. As I pointed out, a sentence as given here will be of no value whatsoever. Take, for example, the next item. The amount involved is only Rs. 1500. But it is not for the sake of the amount that I am saying this. The remark given here says: "The excess was due to an inevitable payment made in the latter half of March 1958...." "What is this inevitability, I am really unable to understand? Was the circumstance so very inevitable that the Government could not anticipate at

all? I only want to point out that sufficient attention is not paid to this aspect of the question. Under Demand No. 30 given on page 6 also the word used is "inevitable". I wish very much the circumstances which made the position inevitable could have been disclosed. On page 16 there is Demand No. 106. There the remarks given are:

"As explained in the foot-note under Demand No. 9—Army through an oversight, payments in satisfaction of Court decrees, arbitral awards continued to be accounted for under the 'voted' portion instead of the 'charged' portion of the Grants for Defence Services upto the year 1955-56."

I am not raising any objection regarding the technical said of it, whether it is to be under "charged" or "voted". My only point is that in matters like this we must be given certain facts as to why such a litigation became, if I may use their own word, inevitable. More often it is possible to have these matters settled. I remember, my hon. friend Shri Pattabhi Raman last time suggested that these things could be decided by arbitration and it will avoid a considerable amount of litigation. Even if that step is not possible, I would very much like that Government bestows a certain amount of consideration to this aspect of the question, because every time the question of payment comes I find that a considerable amount is given on account of these litigations specially with regard to costs which could certainly be avoided.

Then, I would like to say a word or two on one or two other Demands. Under Demand No. 1 there is an item, item No. (ii) relating to a sum of Rs. 64,000 being outstanding adjustments in respect of the expenditure incurred on the Indian Pharmaceutical Delegation's visit to Europe during 1956-57. All that struck me

was, if with regard to a delegation we are not able even to estimate what it is going to cost and there has to be an additional payment of Rs. 64,000, is it not a matter which requires some amount of consideration? Surely when delegations go, there should be an estimate as to what they will cost, and there should not be such a great difference in the amounts on a matter like that. That is all that I wished to say.

Shri Halder (Diamond Harbour—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would confine my speech to Demand No. 60 which deals with the excess amount which will be charged for Manipur. This demand relates to the cost incurred by the Government for the Eastern Rifles belonging to the West Bengal Government, which were deployed in the areas concerned to suppress the Naga activities. A few days ago, our Prime Minister said that the idea of giving responsible Government to the Nagas or the Nagaland had occurred to him ten years ago, but because of their hostilities, responsible Government was not conferred on them till now. Now, the legitimate demands of the Naga people have been fulfilled.

Recently there was a hue and cry in Manipur also for responsible Government. A large amount has already been spent in connection with these demands, and for the suppression of the Naga people. This expenditure has been incurred from the Manipur treasury, but I do not know who will bear this expenditure in respect of Manipur where a mass upsurge had taken place and where the people are not yet satisfied about their demands which still remain unfulfilled. The House is not aware how much amount has been spent by the Defence Ministry to suppress the Naga hostiles. Only a few days ago the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Bill was passed in this House

[Shri Halder]

where, at that time, there were only 30 or 40 Members present, out of about 500 Members in all. The most astounding thing was, not a single Member from Manipur was present at that time, not to speak of taking part in that debate. But still, I do not know how the people of Manipur will be satisfied that the Bill was passed democratically by this House, especially when the Members of this House know very little about the affairs of Manipur and about the land revenue of Manipur. However, if the people of Manipur or the Manipur territory as a whole could be given responsible Government, namely, the power to rule by themselves, then they can know and do which is better for them and which is to be avoided by them. Therefore, I think that the demand of the people of Manipur should be accepted and Manipur should be given responsible Government within a very short time. This is the point which I wanted to mention.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): Mr. Chairman, in this debate many points were raised about Manipur. I shall begin with water-supply schemes which were commented upon. I think hon. Members would realise that there was a scheme for water-supply in Manipur, and because of the delay in the arrival of equipment and in getting the technical staff, the scheme could not go through. But, nevertheless, now we have revised the whole scheme and it is now a bigger and comprehensive scheme. The Imphal Water-Supply Scheme will give a better and greater water-supply to the people of Manipur. Therefore, there should be no apprehension in the minds of hon. Members that Manipur is being neglected as far as the water-supply scheme goes.

The other point about Manipur was this. Some hon. Members in the course of their speeches mentioned that the people of Manipur are not being consulted; or that they are ignored; that they are not heard and are neglected.

It is not correct. There is a council with regard to the affairs of Manipur. The Home Minister himself meets the representatives of the people of Manipur from time to time; questions are asked and the problems of those people are considered. There is a regular agenda at these meetings where all the doubts are cleared. There is a sort of discussion in which we come to know what the difficulties of the Manipur people are, and we try to solve them from our end. There is mutual discussion, and these meetings go on from time to time.

Another point made was that the food prices were going up in Manipur. I may point out that it was made plain in this House sometime ago by the hon. Home Minister: he read out a statement that rats infested the crops this year and that therefore the rice supply was affected very badly. But since then we have pushed in 250,000 maunds of rice in Manipur and now there is no such problem.

I then proceed to the next item. I shall try to be as brief as possible. It was said that a larger number of Manipuris were not employed as officers in Manipur. The whole position is this. I may explain it in detail. The total number of non-Manipuri officers is 132, out of which 95 are engineers. We could not get engineers from among the people of Manipur. But in other cases, wherever we get local people, we do take the trouble to see that they get employment in Manipur. The total number of Government employees in Manipur is 5,720. The number of deputationists is only 132, out of which, as I have already stated, 95 are engineers.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: How many Manipuris are judges and magistrates?

Shrimati Alva: The rest are other technical people who have been deputed because of the special qualifications they have to possess, and because the work which has been delayed from

time to time must gather momentum and be implemented fully and quickly. So, as I have explained, there are non-Manipuris working there, because they are specially trained and they are experts in their own line.

Then there was the question of *jhoomia* cultivation. I was not here when that question was referred to, but I know that one hon. Member said that the land that is distributed there is not suitable for cultivation. It is a matter of opinion. After all, we do not create land. Whatever land there is, we have to see that it is used. It is true that if the land is not suitable, it is very difficult for the *jhoomia* cultivators to settle themselves upon it, and to be given a new piece of land or be taught new habits of settlement on land.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: Suitable land is available in our State. But the Government have decided to set up a colony consisting of 60 to 80 families. Unless they get suitable land to absorb this number, they would not settle individually. That is the difficulty why suitable land is not available for such a large crowd.

Shrimati Alva: All this matter is being looked into from time to time, and if the hon. Member still feels that there is suitable land and that for some reason or other it is not given to the people, the question will be certainly examined by the Government and it will be seen that the *jhoomia* cultivators get the proper type of land and settle down in a proper way. These were the main points made about Manipur, namely water-supply and employment of non-Manipuris in Government.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: What about the demand for responsible Government?

Shrimati Alva: A point was made that there is no responsible Government in Manipur. I do not agree with that opinion. Manipur is being well looked after. It is a big policy issue which Government examines from time to time as to which area needs

responsible Government and which cannot be looked after by the Centre. It is therefore irrelevant so far as the discussion on these grants are concerned.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Sir, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs has tried to reply to some of the points which were raised so far as her Ministry is concerned. I shall now reply to some minor points which were raised relating to the Ministry of Finance.

In regard to Demand No. 1, some hon. Members said they could not understand the reason for the adjustment of arrears of telephone charges outstanding on telephones transferred from the late Ministry of Production for which no provision was made in the final grant on the assumption that these would be met from the grant of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel. Hon. Members are aware that the Production Ministry does not exist today. Very many subjects of that Ministry have been absorbed in various other Ministries. Due to the transfer of these subjects, certain oversight occurred which has brought this demand for excess grants; it could not be detected in time and therefore this has been brought forward. There is nothing to be very anxious about that.

The second point raised was by Shri Achar about the expenditure incurred in regard to decree of the courts. There are two demands, Nos. 28 and 30 which pertain to it. I would like to give a brief history as to why this excess demand has come before the House. I would like to mention here that in the beginning no provision existed for the 'Charged' expenditure under 'Customs' during the year 1957-58. A supplementary grant, as hon. Members are aware, of Rs. 1,000 was obtained in the Budget Session of Parliament in January 1958 in the West Bengal Circle of account to meet a party's claim for cost amounting to Rs. 614. That was a decree against the Government by the Small Causes Court, Calcutta, in a customs case. Subsequently, in another case filed by a firm, the City Civil Court, Bombay,

[Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha]

gave an adverse decision against Government on the 13th November 1957. It was decided by Government on the 11th January 1958 not to file an appeal, because of the lawyer's advice against the decision of that court. As a result, therefore, the Customs Department had to pay a sum of Rs. 5,145.73 to the Registrar, City Civil Court, Bombay, in satisfaction of the court's decree received from the Government pleader on the 18th February 1958. We paid this amount because we did not want to pay the interest which we are supposed to pay if the amount was not paid promptly by Government. Therefore, the Collector of Customs deposited the decree amount in the court on the 16th March 1958 in anticipation of Government's approval.

Shri Achar: My point was only this. Government came to the conclusion that an appeal could not be filed. The amount should, therefore, have been paid before. The very reason they felt that there should be no appeal filed, indicates that there was no good case for Government. My suggestion for future guidance is that Government should in such cases settle the case as early as possible.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: We try our best to compromise with the other party, but Government cannot give any assurance for the future that they will not go to courts; in some cases we cannot avoid it. One does not know what situations would arise. We shall have to come before the House for voting of these sums in a supplementary grant or under charged expenditure. Generally when Government comes for such an expenditure before Parliament which has not been covered by a supplementary grant the reason always is that that demand has come only after the financial year was over. Therefore there has been no opportunity either for applying for a supplementary grant or obtaining an advance from the Contingency Fund. Under these very circumstances Government have come now before the

House with the demand for an excess grant. I shall of course assure the House that we shall try to minimise such situations in future, but no assurance can be given that no such case would arise in future.

I may point out that there is another case of a similar nature, Demand No. 30, where we lost a case. We thought that it was not worthwhile pursuing that case any further. We had to pay that money and for that we have come before the House. But we have for the future decided to make a provision for expenditure likely to be incurred on awards, decrees, etc. Accordingly a provision under 'charged' grant had been made for the year 1958-59 and will be made for the subsequent years.

Another point raised was a very small one in connection with Demand No. 90—Communications. As will be found from the explanatory memorandum, the road for which Rs. 4.44 lakhs was spent was a road constructed in Naga Hills. It was in Tuensang Area. Hon. Members of the House know the necessity of this road. The work became unavoidable. I do not wish to take much time of the House. I request that the excess grants asked for may be sanctioned.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President to make good the amounts spent during the year ended the 31st day of March 1958, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof:—

Demands Nos. 1, 15, 49, 55, 60, 61, 67, 87, 90, 94 and 123."

The motion was adopted.