

(b) No action is called for on the part of Government. The Corporation is aware of its duty to pay as early as possible the just dues of policy-holders. While in cases of early death claims enquiries have to be made before paying the claim amount, the Corporation does its best to conduct investigations as expeditiously as possible.

National Defence Fund

- Shri P. C. Borooah:
- Shri Omkar Singh:
- Shri Balmiki:
- *115. Shri Raghunath Singh:
- Shri Berwa Kotah:
- Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
- Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a National Defence Fund to provide an opportunity to the people to make voluntary contributions in money, gold and gold ornaments; and

(b) if so, what has been the public response thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complete details of the contributions received throughout the country are not yet available. Up to the evening of 8th November 1962 a sum of Rs. 161 lakhs was credited to the central account of the Fund with the Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi. In addition, contributions in gold and gold ornaments weighing 44,900 grams or 3,800 tolas approximately have so far been advised.

Petroleum Products from USSR

*117. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has asked for an increase

in the freight rates for petroleum products shipped to India;

(b) if so, what is the extent of increase demanded; and

(c) what is Government's decision in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Fuel (Shri Hajarnavis):
(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

National Integration

*118. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee of Zonal Councils on national integration has prepared its report;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations;

(c) whether they have been considered by Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement them?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The Committee of Zonal Councils for National Integration was constituted by the Chief Ministers' Conference held in August 1961 to "keep in touch with the working of the various safeguards for linguistic minorities and the promotion of national integration". The main purpose of the Committee is to review from time to time the implementation of the various policy decisions taken at all-India level on safeguards for linguistic minorities and the promotion of national integration. As such the Committee is not expected to prepare or submit any report to Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The Committee has met twice so far and the minutes of the meetings have been sent to the State Government for taking appropriate action.