

झनी प्राप्य नहीं है कोर्ट ने पहली बटना के बारे में अपनी कार्यवाही पूर्ण कर ली है। पता चला है कि इस बटना के लिये कोई उत्तरवाची नहीं है। दूसरी बटना के लिये सुकरंर की गई कोर्ट आफ इन्वायरी ने अपनी कार्यवाही अभी पूर्ण नहीं की है।

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** How far is this place from the military camp?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Ministers are consulting each other.

**Shri Fatesinhrao Gaekwad:** As regards details, the report is awaited.

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** May I know whether the military authorities were informed by the villagers in time about this?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Baghuramalah):** I may explain that in all these cases, prior notice is given, and it is the responsibility of the civil authorities to clear the area. I understand it has been done in this case.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** In part (b), it has been stated that the proceedings have been completed. If so, have the causes of the incident been mentioned?

**Shri Fatesinhrao Gaekwad:** The report is not yet available

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** As regards the first incident, the report is available. But the causes have not been mentioned.

**Shri Nath Pai:** They do not themselves have the information.

**Shri Baghuramalah:** The Report is not yet received by the Ministry. As soon as the report is available, we shall give whatever information is possible.

#### Scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

\*1296. **Shri Ignace Beck:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether

it is a fact that "Means Test" in the award of scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been abolished?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Ignace Beck:** May I know whether this measure of abolishing the Means Test is of a temporary or permanent nature?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** It is very difficult to say whether it is of a permanent nature. It all depends on the situation as it develops. But I can say that for a number of years it is going to be abolished. We are not going to revive it in the near future.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** May I know the reason for this abolition?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** The reasons are .

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The community is poor

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** The Government is poor

**Dr. K. L. Shrimall:** I shall appreciate it if hon. Members kindly listen to me and then make comments. The reasons are three-fold. One is that the number of candidates in the higher income group being very small as compared to the total number of scholarship holders, the labour involved in the application of the Means Test was not considered to be commensurate with the results achieved. I will give the figures just by way of illustration. In 1953-54, the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes scholarship holders was 7,541 and the number of scholarship holders whose parents' income was above Rs. 300 per month was only 47. Similarly, in 1956-57, the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes scholarship holders was 23,226 and the number of scholars whose parents' income was above Rs. 300 per month was only 125. So it was not worthwhile undergoing all

this labour for the sake of a small number of students.

Secondly, with the abolition of the Means Test, thousands of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had to undergo all the trouble of getting income-tax certificates have been saved the trouble.

Thirdly, the number of candidates in the case of Scheduled Tribes not being adequate to fulfil the quota of scholarships, abolition of the Means Test will help to raise the number of eligible candidates.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** In view of the fact that the Central Government have abolished the Means Test, may I know whether the same will be communicated to State Governments for their observance?

**Dr K. L. Shrimall:** It has been communicated.

**Shri Barman:** As I understand it, the Means Test was abolished only in the midst of the year, that is, as late as August last. What have Government done to give this wide publicity so that people might know?

**Dr K. L. Shrimall:** The decision to abolish the Means Test was taken early in August 1957. A Press note inviting applications was issued by August 31, 1957. There were some requests for extension of the last date for receipt of applications, and extension upto 30th September was generally granted.

#### Tobacco Crop in Orissa

\*1399. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco crop in Orissa has been affected seriously by State-wide drought condition during 1957;

(b) if so, the acreage of crop affected;

(c) the loss of revenue apprehended on account of this from the Orissa Circle during the year 1957-58,

(d) whether any areas in the State have been declared exempted from central Excise duty on tobacco during the year 1957-58, and

(e) if so, which are these areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Shri Sanganna:** The taxation Inquiry Commission had suggested the appointment of a Tobacco Inquiry Committee. What action has been taken by the Government thereon?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** That has nothing to do with this question. This relates to tobacco crop in Orissa.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether the question of exempting tobacco cultivation from taxation is a periodic feature?

**Mr Speaker:** What is the meaning in going from drought to exemption?

**Shri Sanganna:** This has been asked in part (d) of the question.

**Mr Speaker:** What is the answer to (d)?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I have said that we have no information. We are collecting information from the State Government and as soon as it is received, we will make it available.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether Government are contemplating exempting tobacco cultivation from taxation from time to time?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** It is very difficult to answer a hypothetical question. We have not got the facts before us. We do not know the extent of damage. Whether it is a policy or not, that matter will have to be decided on the merits of each case.