

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the statement in a Government Press Note that this particular officer was appointed as First Member of the Board of Revenue, Madras at a time when there were very serious allegations against him and in view also of the fact that during the last session, when a question was asked about this officer, the Minister stoutly defended him and stated that there was no reason for suspension at all, and in view of the fact that there is a general feeling in the country that there is softness on the part of the Government

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the question?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of all these facts, will Government reconsider its position regarding prosecution and order immediate prosecution because that alone would satisfy public demand.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): That has already been answered. There will be an enquiry under the Public Servants' Enquiry Act and I think it will satisfy the demand of the situation and when the enquiry is completed, there will be complete ground for taking further action. There need be no anxiety on the part of any member of this House that very proper and very strict steps which may be called for will not be taken.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the terms of enquiry include the vast amount of wealth that has been acquired by this officer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I would ask hon. Members to bear in mind is this. The matter is under enquiry. Let us not therefore assume various things which may mean prejudging the issue. Hon. members are aware of what the Minister has said. Therefore it is not proper for the Minister to give any information when the enquiry is under consideration.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Public Service Commission is there for the enquiry?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: An independent Judge.

Shri Datar: A retired High Court Judge is being appointed.

Shri N. M. Lingam: There is a report that the retired Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court will be in charge of the enquiry.

Shri Datar: No appointment as such has been made but we are finding out who would be available and Sir Trevor Harries is one of them.

Dr. Katju: I would ask Members of this House just to wait for another ten days because some preliminary steps are under consideration and I hope I will be able to make a statement by the end of this month setting out everything.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know the legal position? Now that the said officer has approached the Madras High Court, I want to know if his application before the Madras High Court has to any extent, affected the proceedings that are being contemplated?

Dr. Katju: That is a different matter altogether.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know why when the charges are of a criminal nature, proceedings are not sent to the court and when it is investigated outside the court, the accused should be given an opportunity of defending himself.

Dr. Katju: The enquiry contemplated by the Public Servants' Enquiry Act is more or less a judicial enquiry conducted in very free atmosphere and I think both the prosecution and the accused will have every opportunity of putting their cases before the enquiring officer. That will be a very satisfactory feature. So many allegations and counter-allegations are made and this officer who has got very great experience will be able to tell us how the matter stands.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Would he be liable to further prosecution?

Dr. Katju: Yes.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know what steps Government is going to take to dispossess this gentleman of the money he has illegally made?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are assuming an advanced investigation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*74. **Shri Charak:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have set up any Committee on education;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Committee;

(c) whether they will get salaries from Government as Members of the Committee; and

(d) what are the objects in setting up of such a Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes.

(b) Hon. Member's attention is invited to the Ministry of Education Resolution No. F. 6-1/52-B.1., dated the 27th December, 1952 published in Part I, Section 1 of the *Gazette of India*, dated the 3rd January, 1953 which gives the required information.

(c) No. The members will get no salaries.

(d) They will act in an advisory capacity to make suggestions and recommendations for the promotion of early childhood education and to co-ordinate the work being done by private agencies in this field.

FINANCE COMMISSION

***75 Shri Charak:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) when the report of the Finance Commission will be placed before Parliament and whether there will be any discussion in Parliament on the report;

(b) whether the Finance Commission has ceased to function from the date of submitting the Report to the President or it will continue; and

(c) whether the staff of the Commission has been retrenched or absorbed in other office or has been asked to continue?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhargat): (a) The Report of the Commission was placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on the 13th February 1953.

(b) The Commission was appointed for a period of one year from the 1st December, 1951, and the period was subsequently extended by one month. It accordingly ceased to exist on the 31st December, 1952.

(c) The staff of the Commission were retained for a period of one month for the winding up of the Commission's office. They have since been either retrenched or absorbed in other offices.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT

***76. Shri Charak:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Double Taxation Agreement has been executed between the United Kingdom and India;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement and who signed it on behalf of the Government of India; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay a copy of the Agreement on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No Taxation agreement has so far been executed between the United Kingdom and India.

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

ARTIFICIAL RICE

***77. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 807 on the 28th November, 1952 and state:

(a) whether the experiment to produce artificial rice on mass scale has succeeded;

(b) if so, whether the machinery which will be utilised for manufacturing such rice has been designed;

(c) whether such machinery, and parts thereof, will be manufactured in India;

(d) if not, from which country it is being imported;

(e) how long it will take when rice manufactured as such will be available for public requirements; and

(f) whether there is any other country where such process has been developed?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (f). The production of synthetic rice on a large scale has not yet been attempted. The Government of India have sent Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore abroad to study in detail the possibilities of large scale production of synthetic rice generally and more particularly the nature of equipment required and its working conditions. This officer will submit a report to the Government of India for consideration.