

any specific authority from Pakistan it was not considered desirable to pay at the official rate as it being a higher rate than par rate the Pakistan Government may repudiate the same. Therefore it was not considered feasible to pay at the higher rate, that is, at the official rate.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether the Pakistan Government has obtained any authority from the Indian Government to pay the value of Indian securities—I mean the redemption value and the interest incurring thereon at the official rate? If the Government has given that authority why are Indian nationals being paid at a reduced rate and are made to suffer a loss?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Obviously the Government is following the same logic because there the official rate is lower than the par rate.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: If the Government is to pay in the Pakistan Government's account, why does the Government refuse to pay the same value of the Pakistan securities instead of paying less to the Indian nationals?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is not a question of Government of India paying to Indian nationals; it is paid by us in the Pakistan's account. We referred to the Pakistan Government and they had given no authority to us to pay at the official rate, and hence it is thought not desirable to pay at the official rate, which is the higher rate.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

***274. Shri B. C. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) which States are giving facilities to their linguistic minorities to receive education in their respective mother tongue;

(b) whether the Central Government have issued any instructions to

the States concerning the educational and cultural rights of linguistic minorities; and

(c) if so, how far the States have implemented these instructions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See appendix I, annexure No. 54.]

Shri B. C. Das: May I know against which State Governments allegations of non-compliance with the policy of imparting education in the mother tongue of the minorities were received by the Government?

Dr. M. M. Das: We have received complaints against Bombay Government about Sindhi language, against the U.P. Government about Urdu language and about Bihar Government against Bengali language.

Shri B. C. Das: May I know whether Government have received any complaints that Oriya schools are being closed down in Saraikella and Kharswan States after the merger of the States with Bihar?

Dr. M. M. Das: I have no information about this point.

Shri B. C. Das: May I ask whether Government has any machinery to check up allegations made against the State Governments for non-compliance of this policy?

Dr. M. M. Das: Government has got no separate machinery to check up these allegations but whenever such allegations are received by the Central Government, the State Governments are asked to look into the question and they are requested to remedy the allegations.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: What is the nature of complaints received against the U.P. Government regarding the Urdu language?

Dr. M. M. Das: I beg to have notice of this question.

Shri Barrow: May I know if the Central Government has issued any

instruction to examining authorities to permit linguistic minorities to take their examinations in their respective mother tongues?

Dr. M. M. Das: There was a Conference of the State Education Ministers. The recommendations of that Conference have been circulated to all the State Governments and in so far as the particular question is concerned, I have no information.

DEPARTMENTAL PROMOTION COMMITTEES

*275. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether candidates who do not secure proper place in the panel of names or the candidates who are not selected by the Departmental Promotion Committees can represent to higher authorities; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring any change in the process of selection by Departmental Promotion Committees?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) There is nothing to prevent such representations being made. They are carefully considered on receipt.

(b) No.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know Sir, whether Government is aware that Departmental Promotion Committees constituted of the head of the Department and two or three other officers of the Department, may be swayed by the consideration of provincialism, favouritism and nepotism? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

Shri Datar: Government are not aware that these Boards are swayed by any such considerations and hon. Members will please know that in important cases a member of the Union Public Service Commission also presides over these bodies.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know if these Departmental Committees also take into consideration the seniority of the candidates?

Shri Datar: The principal test is merit; seniority may come in only as an ancillary.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the Government aware of the recommendations of the Gorewala Committee that seniority must be taken into account?

Shri Datar: That is what I said; seniority is taken into account, but it comes only as an ancillary; principally merit is taken into account?

Shri Thimmaiah: While promoting officials, is any special consideration shown to Scheduled Caste officials; if not, why not?

Shri Datar: So far as the question of promotions is concerned there is no reservation at all. Reservation is done only in the case of appointments or recruitments.

Shri Thimmaiah: I asked whether any special consideration is shown.

An Hon. Member: That means reservation.

Shri Datar: 'Special consideration' is included in the term merit.

CRASH OF I. A. F. JET PLANE

*276. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an I.A.F. jet plane crashed near Vellore on the 6th January 1954?

(b) What were the circumstances under which the plane crashed?

(c) Was a Court of Enquiry conducted by the I.A.F.?

(d) If so, what are the findings of the Court of Enquiry?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). A Court of Enquiry was ordered on the 7th January 1954. but the proceedings have not yet been finalized. The known facts are that Flt. Lt. Dandapani was air testing a Vampire Aircraft assembled at H.A.L. when it appears the engine cut.