

been regularly subscribing to the debentures of land mortgage banks and thereby making finance available to them.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the names of the persons engaged in this investigation?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: This is being conducted under the chairmanship of Mr. A. D. Gorwala and he is being assisted by Prof. D. B. Gadgil, the Reserve Bank's Executive Director Mr. Venkatappayya, and the Reserve Bank's Economic Adviser.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR MILITIA

*1512. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Jammu and Kashmir Militia; and

(b) was this force ever posted for duty on the border of the cease-fire line in Kashmir?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Jammu and Kashmir militia are at present employed on Internal Defence, Border Protection and Protection of Communications.

(b) Yes.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know the method of recruitment to this militia?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has only asked for the functions; he could have added one more sub-clause, 'What are the methods of recruitment' etc.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members need not reserve many things for supplementaries when they can add one more sub-clause.

Mr. U. M. Trivedi: May I know whether there was any desertion from this militia?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That also does not arise.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this Jammu and Kashmir Militia is part and parcel of our Indian Army stationed there?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Apparently it works in co-operation with the Indian Army.

Jonab Amjad Ali: May I know the relation that this militia bears to the standing army of Jammu and Kashmir?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice:

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: According to the Constitution of India, Defence is a central subject and it has been transferred to the Government. How can the Kashmir Government maintain an independent militia? Is it not against the Constitution?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Kashmir militia is essentially a police force. It is an armed police force to which we have lent some military officers for training. Sometimes they have been used for protecting lines of communications: not for any other purpose. Our officers are there and in that sense it is connected. Otherwise, it is an entirely separate force; not a regular army; it has nothing to do with the army as such.

Shri B. S. Murthy: How many times has this militia been called into action, to help the Government in quelling civil disturbances?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not understand what the hon. Member means by saying, called into action. Action must be, I suppose, some kind of big scale action. It does not refer to any individual action. I do not understand what he means by action.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I mean, whether this militia has been called into action by the Government of Kashmir in order to help them in quelling any civil disturbances.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer itself says, "employed on internal defence, border protection and protection of communications". That is the work that it does.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: That means, it is connected with defence. I want...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no discussion about this matter.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I want information.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is essentially a police force used whenever any necessity arises. Not the normal police functions; it is an armed police which is used specially, may be for internal purposes, may be for external purposes, in the sense of infiltration, etc. It is not a part of the army in any sense of the word.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Why is it called a militia? In any part of India, is the police force called militia?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we entering into a discussion?

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I just want to know.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Another question is this. Has this militia anything to do with the National Conference?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a State organisation. The National Conference is connected with the State: not in any constitutional way. The State Government derives sanction from popular organisations. Otherwise it has nothing to do with the National Conference.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: We want a categorical declaration from the Government.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. S. More: Is there any State enactment under which this so-called police force is working and has come into existence?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has this Militia started as a volunteer corps attached to the National Conference and then been converted into a militia under the State Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally, I may answer these questions. Perhaps I know a little more about them than my hon. friend overthere. In fact, one or two of his replies have startled me. The militia—of course, I am speaking from memory; I have not got the papers with me; I do not know it may not be quite correct in some small particulars—was started some time after the raids in October 1947. It was started undoubtedly by the Government; but it was helped by the National Conference in recruiting and things of that kind. The National Conference was the only organisation that was facing the raiders for a few days before any Indian force went there. Later it was started and it became an official organ. The National Conference only came into the picture in the sense that unofficially it helped it: not otherwise.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know who meets the expenses: whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir or the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is, as I said, a State organisation and the State meets the expenses. But, in view of certain circumstances, the Government of India has paid certain surplus over, I think, 60 lakhs.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: If it is not a militia, but only a police force, why has this question been allowed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member ought not to question the discretion of the Chair in allowing questions.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a militia. I do not know what the hon. Member means. Nobody said it is not a militia. It is not an ordinary police force. It is a militia whose duties are chiefly those of policing or guarding the lines of communications, etc. and which can be used on emergency for other purposes.

Shri Achuthan: What is the numerical strength of the militia?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: About 6,000 or 6,500.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Will the hon. Prime Minister be able to answer the question, what relation it bears to the standing army of Jammu and Kashmir?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The standing army of Jammu and Kashmir State has been, for operational and other purposes, incorporated completely with the Indian army. It is a part of the Indian army, although to some extent, in some small administrative matters, it may be separate. In fact, the Jammu and Kashmir militia has not been so incorporated. It is an entirely separate thing dealt with by the State, but helped by officers of the Indian army, and although the finances come also from the State, to some extent, as I said, a little money, in excess, has been given by our Government.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Are non-Kashmiris recruited in this militia?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Normally not, I suppose. The local people are recruited for local purposes. I do not know if there is any question of bar. It is an entirely local thing.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Are the officers of this army Members of the National Conference?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say; I hope, so.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: In view of the fact that our Government has spent 50 or 60 lakhs, have we any say in the formation of the militia or control of its operations.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our seconded officers are there. I do not know what other control the hon. Member is thinking of. It is our officers who supervise and train them.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the unsettled situation in Kashmir, may I know whether the Government are proposing to strengthen this national militia?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a matter for the Jammu and Kashmir Government: not for us to determine.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know, Sir, who deals with the deserters of this militia?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The persons who catch them.

— AID TO UNIVERSITIES FUND

*1513. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governing Body of the Aid to Universities Fund recently established has been constituted and is functioning;

(b) if so, what is the total amount that has been contributed by the Central Government?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) It has not been considered necessary to constitute a Governing Body at present. If at a later date the need for a Governing Body arises, this matter will be given due consideration.

(b) The Government of India have not contributed any amount to the Fund which is intended to be made up of only voluntary contributions and donations from associations and individuals.

Shri S. N. Das: The Resolution under which the University Fund was to be constituted stated that the Governing Body would be constituted soon. May I know, Sir, the reasons that led Government to postpone that?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government do not consider, as I have said, that

there is any need for a Governing Body to be set up just now.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the fund was created by any Resolution or by order of the Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government had nothing to do with the resolution, or the passing of the resolution.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the grants that are made out of this amount are made in an *ad hoc* manner, or are they paid for some specific purpose?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This Fund is managed by the Chairman of the Fund Committee, and the Minister for Education is the Chairman of the Fund Committee.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has all the amount that was promised by an hon. Member of this House amounting to a lakh of rupees been received by Government?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, it is being received.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the scope of the Fund—whether it would cover all the Universities or some of the Universities?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All the Universities.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the total so far collected for this fund?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the figure, Sir, but some individuals have donated to it, and instalments are arriving.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that not more than Rs. 10,000/- have so far been collected?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have not been able to collect any large sum for this fund.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken or are being taken by Government in order to encourage voluntary contributions?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The attempt has only begun and amounts are gradually coming.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the fact that there is a large volume of concealed income, did Government make any appeal to those persons to contribute to this fund?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.