

ception of the State Congress Party for immediate grant of Legislative Assembly to Manipur;

(b) whether political parties other than the State Congress Party expressed their united opinion against the proposed setting up of the Council of Advisers through their memoranda and in their interviews with the Prime Minister;

(c) whether the State Congress has demanded the immediate setting up of the Council of Advisers consisting of only Congressmen; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister has promised a Legislative Assembly to the people of Manipur in the very near future without setting up the Council of Advisers?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). I received a number of memoranda when I was at Manipur from various organisations, some important, others not particularly well known. The requests made in these memoranda were usually for the grant of autonomy in the shape of a Legislative Assembly. In some, emphasis was laid on the setting up immediately of a council of advisers and it was further recommended that this should be homogeneous to facilitate work.

(d) I made no promise to this effect, in fact I had said something to the contrary. I said that it was clear that Manipur, like other parts of India, should have autonomy, but this was not a mere matter of decree or legislation. The ground had to be prepared for it and I thought that it would be better to start with the council of advisers.

The Minister of States has recently visited Manipur to consider the situation there for himself.

#### CIVIL LAW

**\*1053. Shri Telkikar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any agreement or treaty between India and any foreign country as regards any civil law in 1950-51; and

(b) if so, the treaty or the agreement reached?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) Yes.

(b) An agreement between India and Czechoslovakia was entered into in 1950 regarding disposal of estates of Indian nationals dying intestate in Czechoslovakia and *vice versa*.

#### CHIEF SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

**\*1054. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was recently a conference of Chief Secretaries of Assam, West Bengal and East Bengal at Shillong; and

(b) if so—(i) what were the subjects discussed; and (ii) what were the agreements or results achieved there?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) Yes, on the 6th, 7th and 8th November, 1952.

(b) (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 17.]

#### COLLAPSE OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

**\*1055. Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many accidents happened, of collapse, during and after their construction of Government structures (buildings, bridges etc.) constructed by C.P.W.D., since 1940;

(b) as a result of the accidents referred to in part (a) above, how many casualties occurred and out of them how many proved fatal;

(c) what compensation Government had to pay for fatal casualties; and

(d) what are the main causes of collapse of the structures constructed by C.P.W.D.?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) So far as I have been able to collect the information the number of occasions on which structures collapsed, wholly or partly, is eight.

(b) 34, out of which 28 proved fatal.

(c) The contractors concerned paid such compensation as was admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Central Public Works Department paid nothing.

(d) The main factors which caused the collapse were:—

- (1) Heavy storm or rain,
- (2) Slipping of earth during excavation,
- (3) Absence of strength in temporary structures to withstand alterations, and
- (4) Disintegration or weakening of reinforcements by efflux of time.