

"TRIPURA" LANGUAGE

*997. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce "Tripura" language as the second vernacular language in the schools of Tripura?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

FLOOD RELIEF

*998. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the help given so far to the Bihar State in connection with flood relief operations in 1954-55; and

(b) to what extent the public co-operation was sought and taken in distribution of relief funds and goods?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) A sum of Rs. 85 lakhs has already been paid by the Government of India to the Bihar State to meet 50 per cent. of the expenditure on "free distribution of food and other essential articles" and "Medical and public Health relief" incurred by the State Government up to December, 1954. Further payment is likely to be made when full details of expenditure are known. Apart from this, a sum of Rs. 11,46,704 has also been paid to that Government out of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

(b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

BEGGARS

*1003. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any statistics showing the beggar population of India, State-wise;

(b) if so, what are the figures and if not, whether such data would be collected;

(c) whether Government have any scheme under consideration for establishing 'Beggar Training Homes' in all big cities of various States where beggars could be kept, and given proper education and vocational training; and

(d) if not, whether they would now consider drawing up such a scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Yes, a statement showing the statistics of beggar and vagrant population in India, State-wise as per Census of 1951 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 26.]

(c) No.

(d) The Central Government is not primarily concerned with the subject. It is for the State Governments to deal with the problem of begging, which cannot easily be eradicated until the economic conditions in the country improve.

PETROLEUM IN ASSAM (JORHAT)

276. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangement for boring for petroleum oil has been made in Jorhat and adjoining areas of Assam;

(b) the name of the firm which has undertaken this operation; and

(c) the terms and conditions on which permission has been given?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir.

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