

Dated.....1.10.1955.....

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I - Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Saturday 1st October 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Short Notice Questions and Answers

States' Re-organisation Commission

S. N. Q. No. 21. Shri Raghuramaiah: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States' Reorganisation Commission has since submitted its report to Government;

(b) if not, when exactly it is expected to be in the hands of Government; and

(c) when the report is likely to be published?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The report of the States' Reorganisation Commission was received by the Government yesterday afternoon. I hope it will be possible to publish it within the next two weeks.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know, in view of varying reports appearing in the daily papers this morning and the possibility of the public being agitated over what might ultimately prove to be wrong forecasts, whether Government are considering publishing at least a summary of it?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I think our public can be relied upon not to be excited over these speculative reports.

Shri Kamath: What according to the expectations of Government will be the time required for putting through the necessary legislation in the Assemblies and in Parliament under Article 4 of the Constitution and for the delimitation of the border constituencies?

Pandit G. B. Pant: If all cooperate whole-heartedly and unreservedly it should be possible to complete the entire process before the next elections.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that, as reported in the press, the Prime Minister stated in his press conference the other day that the proposals of this Commission will be implemented and enforced before the next elections early in 1957, and does the Home Minister also agree with this proposition?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): That is not correct.

Shri Kamath: I said] as reported in the press.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know whether 1957 and other things come in.

Shri Kamath: What was the correct thing?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the implementation is concerned the hon. Minister has already said that they will do it before the next elections. He has added to the tail end of it to say that he was making it appear that the Government is committed to have the elections early in 1957 and so on.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The press conference was held before we knew anything about the report. I said I know nothing about it but we are anxious, on general principles we want, to finish this before the elections.—that is what I said—and the elections should be held at the right time, maybe a month this way or that way. That is what I said.

Shri Kamath: Will the Prime Minister be so good as to tell the House whether it is correct, as reported in the press, that the Congress Working Committee which is scheduled to meet this month will consider this report and the recommendations; if so, whether other parties in the country and Members of Parliament will have simultaneously made available to them the recommendations of the Commission, if not the entire report, as otherwise it will be discrimination in favour of one party alone?

Pandit G. B. Pant : I think all parties will have equal opportunity to co-operate with the Government in seeing this through.

Shri Kamath : May I submit that the co-operation must be on a reciprocal basis? If Government co-operates, we will also co-operate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : We are entering into a discussion.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami : In view of the shortness of the time given to the Commission, may I know whether the Government has expressed its views before the Commission as to what should be the general policy of the procedure with regard to boundary questions; and may I know whether questions settled by judicial persons, just like Bellary, will not be reopened in any case and on any condition?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Government did not take any steps to influence the Commission with regard to any matter whatsoever.

Dr. Suresh Chandra : May I know whether there is any truth that there has been leakage in regard to the report?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Well, I do not know what leakage means.

Shri S. N. Das : May I know whether the report has been sent to the various State Government and, if so, whether any time-limit has been set for them to send their opinions?

Pandit G. B. Pant : The report is being sent to the State Governments and it is expected that they will, considering the importance of the subject, give thought to the proposals as early as they can manage to do so.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : May I know whether the area or areas which are likely to be added to or subtracted from a particular State are going to be administered in the interim period by the same administration?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Well, we are not here solving any problems of arithmetic about addition or subtraction.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : The hon. the Home Minister very well knows how tense the situation in the country is. Many people are awaiting the results. May I ask him what his reply is about the question of publication of the summary of the report in regard to boundaries of States?

Pandit G. B. Pant : I do not think there is any tension. Everywhere I see calm, and undisturbable calm will continue. As to the publication of the sum-

mary, I think it would not be fair to the reader or to the Commission to publish the summary without letting the reader have the reasons on which the proposals or recommendations are based.

Shri S. S. More : In view of the statement that the views from the States have been invited by this Government, may I know whether the views invited from the State Governments are the views of the executive government or of the State legislature also?

Pandit G. B. Pant : The legislatures will have ample opportunity of expressing their opinion, and the States will be required to consult their respective legislatures.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member, Shri Raghavachari, wanted to put a question.

Shri Raghavachari : The question has been put by Pandit Bhargava.

Shri Punnoose : It is stated that the report will be sent to the various State Governments very soon. May I know whether the Governments are obliged to send their reactions to the Central Government, or are they free to ventilate their opinions in public?

Pandit G. B. Pant : I think the representatives of the public in different places will try to ascertain the opinion from all quarters from which they consider it worth while having such opinion.

Shri Kasliwal : Is it a fact that the life of this Commission has been extended so that the Commission may be available for the implementation of the report?

Pandit G. B. Pant : No. The implementation is no part of the business of the Commission. But its help will be taken within a week or two to elicit certain points which may not be quite clear.

Shri Raghuramiah : May I know whether the consultation with the State Legislatures which is contemplated under article 3 of the Constitution will be at a later stage, at the present moment only the opinion of the State Governments being called for?

Pandit G. B. Pant : No. I presume that the State Governments will consult their legislature before reaching any final opinion themselves.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee : Will Government tell us whether, when Government comes before Parliament, we shall have a *fait accompli* or whether Government will defer decision on the matter till after Parliament's intentions are properly ascertained?

Pandit G. B. Pant : The Government will not take any final decision till the Parliament has considered the matter.

Shri Jaipal Singh : May I know how the views of Part C States would be obtained?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Part C States do exist today.

Shri Jaipal Singh : What would be the machinery by which their views would be obtained?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Everyone is free to stand his views on the subject; Part C States have their own organisation and also their administrative officers.

Shri Gadgil : May I know whether the State Governments are being consulted about the desirability of publishing the report about or the merits of the recommendations?

Pandit G. B. Pant : So far as the desirability of publishing the report is concerned, I think there is unanimity that it should be published.

Shri Kamath : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Bombay Chief Minister's reported statement in this morning's papers that members of the ruling party — the Congress Party — in the legislatures, will be free to consider the report and the recommendations of this commission and vote without a party whip and if so is it a premature declaration or is it the policy of the party in this matter?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Sir, matters concerning political parties and the way they conduct their affairs I submit need not take the time of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The question also is a premature one.

Shri U. M. Trivedi : May I ask one question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : How can I allow every hon. Member?

Shri U. M. Trivedi : I will ask only one question.

May I know if the Government visualises remission of this report back to the Commission if different States have expressed different opinions?

Pandit G. B. Pant : Of course, when the final decision is to be taken by Parliament, it will have before it the view of all the States and whatever the Parliament decides will be binding on the Government.

Shri Kamath : My question related to the Bombay Chief Minister's statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : He did not say it as Chief Minister; he said it in his capacity as a Congressman.

BHARAT INSURANCE COMPANY

S. N. Q. No. 22. Shri K. P. Tripathi : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Insurance Company has been converted into an investment company;

(b) whether funds of the said company are involved in a misappropriation case; and

(c) if so, the steps that Government proposed to take to safeguard the interests of the insured, the workers, and the public?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, the funds of the insurer are involved.

(c) Government has appointed an Administrator under Section 52A of the Insurance Act to manage the affairs of the insurer. The Administrator is actively seized of the position and when his examination is complete he will take whatever steps are possible to safeguard the interests of all concerned.

Shri Feroze Gandhi : Is it a fact that this misappropriation is the second committed in the course of the last two years?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : No, Sir.

Shri Feroze Gandhi : Is it a fact that an amount of Rs. 1,60,00,000 was involved in a misappropriation which was committed about two years or a little more and involved a repayment—i.e., Government compelled repayment by Messrs. Bennett, Coleman and Company, publishers of the *Times of India*, to the Bharat Insurance Company?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : It was not misappropriation.

Shri Feroze Gandhi : Is it a fact that Government compelled Bennett, Coleman and Company to refund any amount to the Bharat Insurance Company because on enquiry Government found that it was not properly utilised?