

Dr. M. M. Das: The Government of Madras offered the Guindy Engineering College purely by way of a proposal, and no decision has yet been taken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: For the setting up of this Institute, will the aid of the United Nations be sought as was done in the case of the Eastern and Western Technological Institutes?

Dr. M. M. Das: It is too early to commit anything on the floor of this House on this particular matter.

MERGER OF BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL

*2385. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has communicated to Government his intention not to proceed further with the proposal of the merger of West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the time schedule for completing the re-organisation of the States will be adhered to in the matter of territorial readjustment between the States of Bihar and West Bengal; and

(d) when the Bill containing the provisions for the adjustment of boundaries between West Bengal and Bihar will be introduced?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) The Chief Minister was of the view that considering the state of public opinion time was not ripe for such a proposal.

(c) and (d). A Bill to give effect to the decisions announced on 16th January, 1956, regarding territorial adjustments between the States of Bihar and West Bengal is under preparation. It is hoped to give effect to the decisions of Parliament in this regard along with the general scheme of reorganisation embodied in the States Reorganisation Bill.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know about what time the Bill will be circulated to the respective Governments of West Bengal and Bihar?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I hope, before long.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether, when the present S. R. Bill will be taken up by Parliament for consideration in the next session, it is expected that this Bill will also be taken up along with that?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The Bill will be taken up by Parliament in due course.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to see that the reactions of the States of West Bengal and Bihar on the draft Bill are made available to us before the discussion on the Joint Committee's Report on the S. R. Bill is taken up in this House?

Pandit G. B. Pant: If people do not acquaint themselves with or are not conversant with what is happening outside and want such information, Government will try to place the necessary reports before them from the States concerned.

Shri Kamath: In view of the West Bengal Chief Minister's reported change in his stand owing to the popular verdict in the West Bengal Assembly and Lok Sabha bye-elections and in view of the fact that Government have accepted his report and change of stand, do they propose to accept the popular verdict of the bye-election in Maharashtra *vis-a-vis* Bombay?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The Government do not accept or reject anything. The Government are prepared to agree to any arrangement that would be voluntarily reached between the two States of Bengal and Bihar. Unfortunately, no such agreement could be reached. So, there was nothing before the Government to consider.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government is aware of a strong feeling in Kishanganj in Purnea district about the inclusion of this part in Bengal?

Pandit G. B. Pant: There is apparently a strong feeling so far as reports in the Press indicate.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government have taken note of the statement made by the Chief Minister of Bihar, and, if so, whether Government have arrived at any decision in that regard?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government take note of every statement made by any person which has a bearing on the subject.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: What was the reason for modifying the S.R.C. proposal by excluding 500 sq. miles of territory in Purulia sub-division if the principle is that nothing should be modified except by agreement between the parties concerned? May I know whether the Minister is aware that this modification is not accepted by the people of West Bengal?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The people of Bihar do not accept the rest of the proposal altogether.

Mr. Speaker: There will be discussion on this later on.

NATIONAL INCOME CONFERENCE

*2387. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 2324 on the 28th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether any National Income Conference with a view to finalise a programme of research on national income has been convened;

(b) if so, the nature of subjects discussed, decisions taken and recommendations made by it?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No, Sir; but on the advice of the Fourth Joint Conference of Central and State Statisticians held in December, 1955, it has now been decided to convene a seminar instead, in which representatives of some Universities and research institutions have been invited to participate. In order to give the participants time for detailed study, the seminar is proposed to be held in October, 1956.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the representatives of Universities and other experts would be invited to the seminar, and if so, who they are?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The list of the invitees has not yet been finally drawn up, but I think all those who are interested in the seminar and have expert knowledge of this thing will be invited.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATIONAL MUSEUM

*2358. { **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**
Shri Eswara Reddi:
Sardar Akarpuri:
Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of a building for the National Museum in Delhi; and

(b) the time required for the completion of the work?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). Construction of the building of the National Museum has been divided into four phases. Work on the first phase has been taken in hand and the progress upto 31-3-56 is about 16% of the first phase. The work of first phase is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1958. The work of the whole building is expected to be completed during the Second Five Year Plan period.

STUDY OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

*2360. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the study of Russian Language in India; and

(b) if so, the details of programme?