

(f) The public has co-operated by forming village defence parties which act in co-operation with the Police in patrolling and other duties.

(g) No dacoity has taken place after May 1953.

#### NORTH EASTERN FRONTIER

97. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item reported in the Calcutta edition of the 'Amrita Bazaar Patrika' dated the 3rd June, 1953, from its Silchar correspondent that the Chief Commissioner of Tripura who recently visited Aijal, the headquarters of the Lushai Hills Districts, had discussions with the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Lushai Hills Districts about the 'proposed' formation of a Part 'C' State consisting of Tripura, Cachar, Manipur, Lushai Hills, North Cachar, Mikir Hills, Naga Hills and Garo Hills, etc.?

(b) Do Government accept the correctness of the said report and if not, what is the actual position?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) Yes.

(b) The report is incorrect. The object of the visit of the Chief Commissioner, Tripura, to Aijal, was to study the administrative methods followed in Lushai Hills Districts.

#### MANUFACTURE OF BREN GUNS

98. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Bren Guns are being manufactured now in India?

(b) If so, are they being manufactured by private firms or by Government Ordnance Factory?

(c) Can the production meet the entire needs of the Indian Armed Forces?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) Yes

(b) Only in Government Ordnance Factories.

(c) Yes.

#### 'KABLIWALAS' (MONEY LENDING)

99. **Shri D. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether 'Kabliwalas' are legally entitled to carry on money-lending business in India?

(b) Are they legally entitled to charge interest at the rate of 2 annas per rupee per month?

(c) If so, what is the reason for this favourable treatment to these foreign nationals as against the Indian money-lenders?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) So far as is known there is no part of India in which a particular class of persons is prohibited from doing money-lending business merely on grounds such as nationality.

(b) 'Money-lenders and Money-lending' being a State subject, legislation regulating the business of money-lending has been passed by different States and the maximum rates of interest which money-lenders may charge are statutorily fixed. Nowhere does the maximum come up to 2 as. per rupee per month. The attention of the Reserve Bank of India and the State Governments is, however, being drawn to the usurious rates of interest being charged by the class mentioned at (a).

(c) Does not arise

#### GOLD MINES

100. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state what was the total quantity and value of gold produced from the gold mines during the years 1950-51; 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(b) What was the average cost of production per tola of gold from these mines?

(c) In what other regions has geological survey for gold been carried out?