

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the money distributed there is through private agencies like the one mentioned by Mr. Achuthan, and whether any money is misused by these agencies?

Shri Datar: I presume the amount is mainly spent through the government agency. In addition to this, it appears that a Relief Committee has also been formed there.

Shri Punnoose rose—

Mr. Speaker: I looked at the hon. Member. He was sitting. I thought he had no questions.

Shri Punnoose: I stood up, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. He may put his question.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the total number of families affected by this calamity and the number of families that have received some sort of help?

Shri Datar: I have given all the information that I had just now.

Malabar District Board

*2003. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) What will be the position of Malabar District Board when there is no District Board in Travancore-Cochin State at present when "Kerala" State is formed; and

(b) whether the Schools, Dispensary and other establishments run by the District Board will be taken over by "Kerala" Government and the present District Board Employees will be taken as Government Servants?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The question is for the new State of Kerala to decide. The Government of India do not anticipate that there will be any difficulty in continuing the Malabar District Board, till a final decision has been taken:

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What will be the administrative set-up?

Shri Datar: In the administrative set-up, until there has been a change the Malabar District Board will continue, and I would invite the hon. Member's attention to section 119 of the States Reorganisation Act.

Shri Velayudhan rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not stand up. I would not have called Mr. S. V. Ramaswamy had any hon. Member from Malabar stood up. Hon. Members will hereafter be more alert.

Hydro-Electric Project on Kundah River

*2004. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has agreed to contribute towards the construction of a new hydro-electric project on the Kundah river in Madras; and

(b) if so, the nature of contribution and whether this is to be provided under the Colombo Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Canada has agreed to contribute \$20 million in the shape of equipment required for construction of the Kundah Hydro-Electric Project in Madras, under the Colombo Plan.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether this contribution has been accepted by the Indian Government? What is the total value of this contribution?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes, Sir. The value, I said, is 20 million dollars.

Shri K. S. Gounder: Would the equipment include pen stock pipes?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: They are all construction equipment: hydraulic, electrical and mechanical equipment.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is said that the original programmed time-schedule is 7 years for completion of this construction. Will there be delay in the flow of funds or will it be expedited?

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I do not know how this question arises. The allotment has been made. So far as the project itself is concerned, the State Government and the Central Government are responsible to see it through. I cannot see any reason why there should be any delay at all.

Merger of Defence Headquarters Staff

*2005. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Headquarters staff, under the Ministry of Defence are joining the Central Secretariat Service of the Government of India;

(b) if so, what is the present position; and

(c) whether all the implications of such a merger have been examined and details worked out?