

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know in which parts of Manipur the deposits are mainly available and whether there is any proposal to find out further deposits?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In all, six lime-stone localities have been found in Manipur. Of these, three are located in the vicinity of Imphal-Ukhrul road towards Ukhrul. The other three are located in isolated localities round about Manipur. There is no immediate proposal to make further search for lime-stone in Manipur.

Untouchability

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*1459. { **Shri B. C. Mullick:**
 Shri Kumbhar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa was asked to maintain a list of villages, where untouchability is practised in one form or the other, in order to assess the progress achieved in its removal;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has already submitted its report to the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the progress achieved in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A suggestion to this effect was made to the State Government on the basis of a recommendation made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his report for the year 1951.

(c) The Orissa Government did not find this suggestion feasible.

Shri B. C. Mullick: In view of the fact that for the removal of untouchability, the State Governments were requested by the Central Government to appoint small committees at the headquarters, may I know whether the Orissa Government appointed such a committee and if so, whether the Government have received the report from the State Government?

Shrimati Alva: The Orissa Government have not appointed any committee; they did not find it feasible to undertake this work.

Shri Ayyakannu: May I know whether any instruction has been given to other States also to submit reports?

Shrimati Alva: That was the recommendation made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but most of the States felt that it was not possible to do it.

Shri Balakrishnan: In spite of the various legislations enacted by the Centre and State Governments, several big temples like the Kasi Vishwanath Temple, are not open to Harijans. May I know what action the Government have taken to open the temples?

Shrimati Alva: It is left to the State Governments. Besides, this is a very large question he is asking.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether the Government propose to publish a consolidated support showing the steps taken by different States for the eradication of untouchability and to what extent untouchability is eradicated and to what extent it is still existent?

Shrimati Alva: For that purpose, we have the annual report from the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commissioner requested the State Governments to furnish information as to the number of villages in each State where untouchability is observed and that information is not supplied by the State Governments? Will the hon. Minister say what action the Central Government has taken in this behalf?

Shrimati Alva: The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes make recommendations annually and it is left to the State Governments to implement them. If they are not able to implement, they say so. If they implement, then also they tell us.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Is it only for making recommendations?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know what the Central Government is doing or has done in cases where the State Government has expressed its inability or unwillingness to tackle the problem.

Shrimati Alva: What can the Centre do? We can only request the State Governments to do it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, during Question Hour?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The Scheduled Castes Commissioner has found that there is untouchability in such and such places and he has mentioned it in his report. On the basis of the report, the Government of India has asked the Orissa Government to do something and the Orissa Government is unwilling to do it. Is there no other remedy?

Shrimati Alva: It is not unwillingness; it is a question of feasibility. After all, if one individual practises touchability or untouchability in a village, how are we going to do it village-wise?

Shri Manay: Which are the States which have been asked to maintain such lists?

Shrimati Alva: I do not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a list of States specially chosen for that or is it general?

Shrimati Alva: It is in the recommendations made by the Commissioner.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: काशी विश्वनाथ मन्दिर में आज तक हरिजन नहीं जाने पाते हैं, और अगर वे जाते हैं तो अरेस्ट कर लिए जाते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके विषय में सरकार की ओर से आज तक क्या किया गया है।

Shrimati Alva: It is for him and me to see that this is abolished.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Why does the Government arrest the Harijans entering the temple?

Mr. Speaker: That is the U.P. Government. What is the use of asking this Government?

श्री जांगड़े अभी माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि अनुसूचित जातियों के कमिश्नर की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर बहुत से राज्यों से ये आकड़े मागे गए हैं कि किन किन गांवों में छुआ-छूत बरती जाती है। क्या मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि राज्य सरकारों ने इस सम्बन्ध में अपनी असमर्थता प्रकट की है, उसका कारण यह है कि छुआ-छूत बहुत से गांवों में मानी जाती है और अगर सरकार ने इस बात के आकड़े मांगे होते कि किन किन गांवों में छुआ-छूत हुआ ही नहीं है, तो राज्य सरकारें आकड़े देने में समर्थ हो गई होती?

Shrimati Alva: I have not followed the question. It is so long.

Mr. Speaker: There is so much of noise in the House. Hon. Members will kindly hear what is said.

Shri Jangde: Just now the hon. Deputy Minister has answered that as per the recommendation of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner, the Government of India has asked the various State Governments to assess the extent to of the which of untouchability is practised in the various villages in the different States. Is it because that untouchability prevails in such a large number of villages that it is very difficult to assess the progress of the

removal of untouchability? If the Minister has asked in how many villages in each State untouchability has completely gone out, then they would have given the figures.

Shrimati Alva: That is a suggestion.

Cantonment Board, Ambala

*1460. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is applicable to the Cantonment Fund Employees; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the dispute between the Cantonment Board, Ambala, and the employees has not so far been referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication when negotiations and conciliations have failed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad): (a) Yes.

(b) Certain demands about their terms and conditions of service were made by the employees of the Cantonment Board Ambala and the decisions/views of the Government regarding these have been communicated to them on more than one occasion. The appropriate Government, under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is the State Government. The question of Government of India making a reference to the Industrial Tribunal, therefore, does not arise.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know whether the Centralisation of the services of the cantonment employees is under the consideration of the Government?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): A separate question may be put on that. If a separate question is put, I would be glad to furnish the answer.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know whether gratuity is being paid to cantonment board employees at the time of retirement, as in the case of other government employees?

Shri Raghuramaiah: These are all completely unconnected with the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What right has the Deputy Minister to say that they are unconnected?

Mr. Speaker: That is only for the information of the Chair, so that it may decide.

What does the dispute relate to?

Shri Raghuramaiah: So far as the Central Government is concerned, we are aware that certain points of difference between the Cantonment Board in question and the employees have come up for consideration. Most of the items were disposed of satisfactorily to our knowledge. Only in regard to two items, one relating to revision of scales of pay and the other, the merger of 50 per cent. of dearness allowance with pay, a decision is pending. No final decision has been taken on these two matters. In regard to pay scales, I might say that the pay scales have been revised there again except in regard to two or three categories of employees, the question has been completely settled; these two matters are, however, still pending consideration.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I asked whether these people are paid gratuity at the time of retirement as other government servants are paid?

Mr. Speaker: Gratuity is not one of the points at issue, it appears.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It comes under the dispute.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): This question relates to the demands made by the employees of a particular cantonment board. I wonder whether you would allow hon. Members to reopen the whole question.

Mr. Speaker: I only want to know about the question of gratuity to the employees within the purview of this question.

Shri Raghuramaiah: The question of pay and merger of dearness allowance only is now under consideration.