

cluded in the list because there is no such project coming under the Central Government.

Application of Hindu Marriage Act in Pondicherry

*572. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred of No 1281 on 26th February, 1975 regarding application of Hindu Marriage Act in Pondicherry, and state whether Government would suo moto take steps to end the "renoncants" class and make all Indian law applicable to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): The Government has no intention of taking any such steps at present.

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : पांडिचेरी को हम देश का भाग बने प्रतिक वर्ष 1 गये हैं। क्या श्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि क्या कारण है कि अभी तक यह नहीं सोचा गया है कि वहां पर जो प्रकार के भारतीय नागरिक न रहे सब एक ही जाति आर सब पर भारतीय कानून लागू हो ?

SHRI OM MEHTA Under the French Decree of 1881 the inheritors of the former French settlement, irrespective of caste or religion, have a right to ask to be governed by the laws applicable to the French people in this settlement in matters like marriage, divorce, dispossession of property etc., instead of by the personal law. The persons exercising such option are called the "renoncants". When personal law applicable to different communities, including the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 were extended to the Union Territories those laws were made specifically inapplicable to "renoncants" and there is no demand from them for the restoration of the status.

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : क्या श्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि हिन्दू मैरिज ऐक्ट के सिवा और कौन कौन से कानून हैं, जो उन पर लागू नहीं होते हैं ?

SHRI OM MEHTA: There are some more laws which are not applicable to them. They are the Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866, the Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872, the Indian Majority Act, 1875, Guardians and Wards Act 1890, Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, the Hindu Dispossession of property Act 1960, the Hindu Inheritance Removal of Disabilities Act 1928, the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the Hindu Succession Act 1966, the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act 1956; and then, there is the Muslim Personal Law Application Act 1937 and Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1899 etc.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पांडिचेरी भारत का भाग है, लेकिन वहां अभी फालोवियों द्वारा बनाये गये कानून चल रहे हैं। वहां अभी तक कुछ मामला में भारत के कानून नहीं चल रहे हैं। क्या यह स्थिति विचित्र नहीं है? क्या सरकार कोई समय निर्धारित करेगी, जिस के बीच में सभी भारतीय कानून वहां लागू कर दिये जायें और वहां में हम जहाँ में कोई मांग प्रायें, इन के लिए सरकार नहीं करेगी, क्योंकि जो कानून अच्छे है और मारे देश में चल रहे हैं पांडिचेरी की जनता को उनमें क्यों बंदिन रखा जाना चाहिए ?

श्री ओम मेहता 1881 में वहां के कुछ नागरिकों ने अपने अधिकारों का छोड़ कर फ्रेंच सिविल कोड को अपनाया था। इसी वर्ष में जब 1962-63 में पांडिचेरी का एकमेकन हुआ। जब वह भारतवर्ष का भाग बना उस समय वहां जो गवर्नमेंट थी उनके और हमारे गवर्नमेंट के दरमियान व फरक हुआ कि

Renoncants will continue to be governed in respect of personal laws like those relating to marriage

divorce, adoption and succession by the relevant Acts of the French Civil Court dealing with these matters.

श्री प्रदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : कब तक ?

श्री श्रीम मेहता : जब तक वहाँ के लोगों में यह डिमांड नहीं प्रायगी कि वे इस कोड में गवर्न नहीं होना चाहते हैं।

I would like to say that this is a good code because under that code all persons belonging to all religions, castes and groups are being governed by the same code.

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA. By saying that there has to be a demand from them, does he suggest that there should be a movement and some bullets should go and some women should be shot dead? How long are the people of the Union Territories be it Goa or Pondicherry or any other place to suffer like this, because, according to him, the Christian Muslims will be cut off from the mainstream of national life and those women will suffer for untold number of years. If you want, we will go and run the movements there.

SHRI OM MEHTA. There is no question of other Union Territories. This exists only in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, and the total number of the people who renounced their old laws and wanted to be governed by this French law is 10,176.

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMI KANTHAMMA. I want to know whether the Committee appointed on the status of women has suggested that these laws should be changed and made applicable as in the case of other parts of the country. Also I want to know, when you are forming some committees like these, whether you are associating the Women's Association and other Associations from the Union Territories and if not, the reasons therefor.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I have already said that this has nothing to do with all the Union Territories. This is a specific issue concerning a section of the population in Pondicherry.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: I understand from the hon. Minister that the people from Pondicherry have not been demanding any changes in the laws. That is not correct. Even in the Budget speech I have said that, from 1968 onwards, the people of Pondicherry have been demanding the change-over. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that those people who are renouncants, even Hindu members who have renounced their civil rights, are governed by Court Civil and people who are Christians and who have not renounced are not governed by Court Civil, they are still governed by the old Hindu laws. Hence, the anomaly. After the introduction of Hindu Marriage Act and Hindu Succession Act, the Christians are not governed by them, and that is the reason, as I said in the Budget speech, the people who belong to Christian women community are not entitled to their property rights. But the Government of India have not yet considered it. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the Department of Pondicherry has gone into the matter deep, but here these people have not made their recommendations on proper lines. I do not know what the Minister means by saying that the people of Pondicherry are not demanding for it. In 1954 when the de facto transfer took place, they were assured of smooth changes. From 1968 onwards, practically all the Indian laws were introduced even the procedure was introduced. But there are anomalies which are causing a good deal of trouble to the people there. These people are not giving proper attention to the Union Territory; they have not even studied the application of legal matters as expected of them.

SHRI OM MEHTA: If those renoncants demand it, then we can consider.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I do not know how Indian citizens can be governed by foreign laws. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA: The hon. Member who asked the question now is from Pondicherry. His demand is equal to the demand of the people there.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Out of 71, 107 people, only 10,176 are renoncants. We will again try to assess, and if they demand, we shall see what can be done.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: I was not speaking for renoncants; I was speaking for the people who have not renounced. (Interruptions).

Small Newspapers in Gujarat and Newspaper Quota given to them

*574. **SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small newspapers in Gujarat, giving broad categories, published in Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi and English;

(b) whether the said newspapers are given any special quota of newsprint; and

(c) if so, broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

LANGUAGE-WISE BREAK-UP OF NEWSPAPERS

Language	Daily	Bi/Tri-weekly	Weekly	Fort-nightly	Monthly	Quarterly	Other	Annual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
English	1	..	3	3	15	5	9	1
Hindi	1	..	1	..	4	..	..	..
Gujarati	20	2	122	64	212	16	10	..
Marathi	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Sanskrit	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Sindhi	..	..	1	2	4	..	..	..
Bilingual	..	1	3	3	8	1	4	..
Multilingual	..	..	6	1	3	3	..	..
TOTAL :	21	3	136	73	247	26	24	1

GRAND TOTAL : 531