

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The team has not yet reported. How can we compare their report with that of the French experts?

Shri Onkar Lal: May I know whether it is a fact that the process of sheet-piling at Kotah barrage has gone waste, according to the report of the French engineers, and if so, what action has been taken in this respect?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): In regard to the day-to-day working of this project, I think my colleague on my right will be in a better position to answer it. All that I am concerned with is in regard to the particular committee which is enquiring generally into the efficiency of the working of these projects.

Territorial Army

*982 **Shri Mohan Swarup:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether it is proposed to expand the activities of the Territorial Army, and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh-
rao Gaekwad):** (a) There are no plans under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Mohan Swarup: May I know how this scheme has been implemented, and how far it has proved successful in imparting military training to the masses?

Mr. Speaker: Leaving alone expansion, the hon. Member wants to know how far the Territorial Army has been fruitful in imparting training.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): So far as the Territorial Army is concerned, we have imparted training for the limited purposes for which that Army is

meant, and I can say it has been successful.

श्री भगत बहाल: क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्रदेशिय सेना के लिए जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया था यानी जितने लोग उसमें भरती किये जाने थे, उसका कितना प्रतिशत पूरा हो गया है?

Sardar Majithia: The strength today is 98 per cent of the authorised strength.

Shri Yajnik: The hon. Member has said that it is 98 per cent of the total strength. What is the target and how much has been fulfilled?

Sardar Majithia: I cannot give the number because that will be a secret.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The hon. Minister has said that the number of men in the Territorial Army is 98 per cent. Of what?

Mr. Speaker: Of the total target. He is not able to give the figure.

Shri Hem Barua: Without knowing the target, how could he quote the percentage?

Mr. Speaker: He has committed the percentage to memory. We can generally know the percentage without knowing the number.

Janta Policy

*983. { **Shri Gajendra Prasad:**
Shri Heda:
Shri Daman.

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has started its Janta Policy Scheme

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) in how many centres Janta Policy Scheme has been started in the country, and

(d) how its premia compare with other types of policies?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early to assess the progress made in this direction as the Scheme has been introduced only during the last week of May, 1957.

(c) The scheme has been introduced in 13 centres.

(d) As compared to the premium payable on Endowment Assurance Policy under the standard plan of assurance, the rate of premium under the Janta Policy is higher by Rs. 3 per thousand sum assured.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know what will be the method of collection, and when the stamp system is going to be introduced for collection of premium?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It will be door to door collection by authorised agents.

Shri Heda: Are Government aware that certain insurance companies before nationalisation were carrying on a scheme very similar to the Janta policy scheme and there the advantage was that the premia were lower than the standard rates? If so, what are the reasons why here the premia are higher than what they were?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As for the first part of the question, I will have to check up before I answer. I do not have that information here with me. As to the reason why the premium is higher, the sum assured is in most cases very small and the expenditure involved is higher. That is why it works out to Rs. 3 per Rs. 1,000 higher, but it is only 30 nP. per Rs. 100.

Shri Damani: May I know how far industrial labour has taken advantage of this scheme?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is too early to say. But the 13 centres that have been started are primarily in industrial areas.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether medical examination is insisted upon?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No.

Shri Morarka: The hon. Minister has said that the rate of premium is higher because the expenditure is more and sum assured is small. When there is no medical examination, and also other formalities are dispensed with, the actual expenditure should be less and the premium rate should be less. Why is it not so?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Medical examination will take place in the case of people who are above 35. But when there is no medical examination, that itself increases the actuarial risk. The rates are worked out on the basis of the actuarial risk; it is not merely a question of expenditure. The hon. Member, who is a very keen businessman, knows that we cannot offer a policy without working out what are the risks, and the risks are fairly high and that is why premium has to be higher.

Shri Damani: In order to popularise the scheme, will Government consider showing documentaries in the rural areas and other areas, to the better advantage of the people?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Ranga: What efforts are being made to bring this scheme to the notice of the workers? Are any of the voluntary organisations like the trade unions, the Bharat Sevak Samaj, and also government organisations like the post office, being invited to co-operate in popularising the scheme and also collecting premium.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The Janta policy scheme was inaugurated by important party leaders in most States, and we seek the co-operation of all trade unions or other voluntary organisations. We are doing that.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know what is the total amount for which policies have been issued under this scheme up to now and what is the number of such policies?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: That would have to be collected. If a separate question is put, I will get the information

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: There was a news item to the effect that special stamps would be issued for collection of premium. But just now the Deputy Minister has said that premium will be collected through agents. I would like to know whether those stamps will be sold through post offices or agents.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Both. Also agents will go from door to door and sell stamps.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: What is the expected amount of premium?

Mr. Speaker: I have already allowed a sufficient number of questions. Next question.

Rupee Stabilization Credit

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*885. { Shri Bimal Ghose.
Shri Bibhuti Mishra.
Shri Surendranath.
Shri Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are negotiating for a rupee stabilization credit from the London market,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the particulars of assistance asked for?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat): (a) to (c) No such negotiations are being carried on by Government.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know if anything has come out of the Prime Minister's statement that he would not be averse to having a couple of hundred million pounds in the London market?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is true that we are willing to negotiate loans. When a question was asked of the Prime Minister by a Pressman, he mentioned

that the Indian Government would not be averse to getting a loan of £200 million, but that does not mean that we either find that the circumstances are propitious for the purpose of carrying on negotiations or we have been pursuing it since then.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Do I understand that the Government have not initiated any efforts for getting money from the London market or the American market by way of loan or otherwise to bridge our foreign exchange gap?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These are matters which are under constant review, and I am sure my hon. friend, who knows all about it, will not expect me to put all my cards on the table. For one thing, we may not make approach in a particular quarter unless we think that there are reasonable chances of getting money. May be that in the present circumstances the London market is not one in which we could raise any money; we cannot go to that market because we have certain other difficulties as well, namely, an Indian Government loan will not now—as at present—be entitled to the trustee security status.

So far as loans in other parts of the world are concerned, small loans are being floated. For instance, we floated a loan for the Air India International, but for a very small amount. It may be that one or two Indian firms are floating loans abroad. But I am not in a position to enlighten the House beyond that point.

Shri Tyagi: A gambler will never show his cards.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Floods in Brahmaputra

12 hrs.

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S.N.Q. No. 15. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a serious situation has