

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant):** (a) to (c) Flags are flown at half mast and Government offices are closed in the unfortunate event of the death of certain high dignitaries in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government of India. About other high dignitaries of the State, the State Governments have the authority to frame similar suitable instructions for their respective States. No exhaustive list has been prepared.

#### **Bhilai Steel Plant**

**\*166. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian experts have suggested a Township Railway for the Bhilai Steel Project Township,

(b) if so, whether the suggestion has been accepted,

(c) how much it will cost, and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above is in the positive, how much time it will take to start the work on the same?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Do not arise

#### **Admission to National Defence Academy**

**\*167. Shri Goray:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that boys from some States where English language is taught from VIII Standard find it difficult to pass the competitive examination for admission to the National Defence Academy, and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow such candidates to have the option of answering the questions, whether in the written papers or in the oral tests,

in any one of the languages recognized by the Constitution?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon):** (a) and (b) This matter has been considered in the past and it was felt that, in regard to the medium for the written examination, the decision that may be taken by the Government in respect of all other all-India competitive examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission should be followed. While the medium continues to be English, candidates who are deficient in English have to take some special coaching for the National Defence Academy examination as for other competitive examinations. In regard to the interview and personality tests by the Services Selection Boards, however, instructions were issued in November 1954 that although the medium would continue to be English, no undue importance should be attached to the standard of English and that the main factors to assess were the substance of what was said, clarity of thought, nature of arguments etc and not the standard of English in which these were expressed.

#### **International Conference of Social and Child Welfare**

**\*168. Qazi Matin:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of a resolution passed by the Ninth International Conference of Social and Child Welfare held at Tokyo recommending Income-tax exemptions for working women and their dependants;

(b) whether Government have accepted the recommendation and what action has been taken, and

(c) if so, the number of working women who will be benefited by these exemptions?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha):** (a) No, Sir Government has not so far received the official Report of the Conference

(b) and (c) Do not arise