

on marine biology and oceanography, and that Committee is considering all these questions, to coordinate the work of marine biology and oceanography, as also scientific development of the fisheries industry. It has made certain recommendations, which are being examined by the Ministries of Finance, Defence and Natural Resources.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Arising out of the statement by the hon. Minister, may I ask whether marine biology and oceanography are subjects under the Food and Agriculture Ministry? If so, may I know why these subjects are not included in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Researches in Marine Biology and Oceanography are not included in the Natural Resources and Scientific Research Ministry. So far as the application of these principles are concerned, they are taken up by the Agriculture Ministry or other Ministries concerned.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not my question. I questioned about the subject. I did not refer to research. My question is, why these subjects have not been included in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The study of these subjects is one of our functions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I did not mean study of the subjects.....

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, the hon. Minister said that this subject has come under the purview of Geophysics. May I know whether Government have any intention to start a Central Institute of Oceanography? If so, where will it be located?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This question as I have said, is being considered by the Sub-Committee on Oceanography and Marine Biology. As soon as Government are able to take a decision, we shall announce it.

SYNTHETIC MICA

*802. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether any research work has been undertaken in India to produce Synthetic Mica?

(b) Has any such Mica been produced by mica-importing countries?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No.

(b) By "synthetic mica" is meant mica produced from its constituents or from other substances. Such mica has not yet been produced though it is claimed that certain laboratories in USA have produced mica crystals of comparatively small sizes.

Shri Tek Chand: Is the Government aware that very large quantities of mica are available on the Kulu side in the Himalayas almost for a picking?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, mica is abundantly available in our country.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, if acceptable substitutes have been developed by the U.S.A. which have affected the mica exports of this country considerably?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Some research is being carried out in the U.S.A. and a product known as 'Semica' is produced out of mica scraps. But as yet nothing can be said with certainty whether a real substitute to mica has been found out.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that because of the new substitute our export has fallen and there is also a heavy slump in the industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We cannot attribute the recent fall in the export of mica exactly to the discovery by the Americans of a synthetic mica.

Shri Tek Chand: What attempts are made to exploit the mica wealth of our country, if any?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, a Mica Committee has been formed and it is giving consideration to all those questions of exploiting the raw material found in the country.

CENTRAL MICA ADVISORY BOARD

*803. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state when was the Central Mica Advisory Board formed?

(b) Who are its Members?

(c) What are its functions?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The