

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

Central Mica Advisory Committee was set up on the 31st October, 1946.

(b) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 49].

(c) The Committee advises Government on all matters connected with mica trade and industry.

**Shri N. P. Sinha:** I find from the statement that there are a good number of representatives of different Associations. May I know, Sir, if these Associations are registered Associations?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Sir, I cannot specifically answer this question, but I presume that these must be registered Associations.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Nanadas rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have called the next question.

**CHARGES AGAINST FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY**

\*804. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the charges of corruption against the former Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been completed;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether he has been fully exonerated;

(c) whether any one else from the Ministry was also involved in the enquiry;

(d) whether the officer concerned is now in Government service and if so, where and in what capacity;

(e) whether he was appointed to that post before he was exonerated by the Enquiry Committee or later;

(f) whether it is a fact that one of the charges against him was that he had built a palace worth lakhs of rupees; and

(g) whether that charge has also been investigated and found baseless?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) to (g). An investigation is proceeding, and it would be prejudicial to the public interest to disclose at the present stage the information asked for.

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Is it a fact, Sir, that a businessman of South India dealing in cycle manufacture had mentioned in his account books that a sum exceeding a lakh of rupees was paid to the Secretary, and the enquiry originated with that?

**Shri Datar:** I am not aware.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know the name of the gentleman?

**Shri Datar:** It is not possible at this stage to mention it.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** He was supposed to be Secretary of the Commerce Department. Then why not mention it?

**Shri Datar:** Then the name is known.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Is it a fact that all kinds of influences are being brought to bear upon the Central Government to hush up the inquiry?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** That is absolutely untrue.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know, Sir, whether the officer is still under employment?

**Shri Datar:** The officer is still under employment, but not here.

**Shri Punnoose:** Where is he.....

**Shri Damodara Menon:** Where is he employed now and what is his present employment?

**Shri Datar:** He has gone back to the State from which he came.

**Shri S. S. More:** What is the stage of the inquiry?

**Shri Datar:** The stage of the inquiry? Almost at the last stage.

**Shri S. S. More:** That is not an answer. I want to know what particular stage of the inquiry we have reached.

**Shri Datar:** It is still in the course of investigation by the police.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know, Sir, why, since these charges are pending against the officer concerned he is not even under suspension?

**Shri Datar:** It was not considered necessary.

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that the case is not yet complete and there is an accusation against him, is it right on the part of the Madras-