

publicity in the State through the local press.

(c) The Development Board of Tripura consists of the Chief Commissioner, the Secretaries of the Departments and two non-official members. A Development Committee consisting of officers of various Departments and a number of non-officials has also been formed. Bharat Sevak Samaj is also being organised.

INDIAN ARMS ACT

*796. **Shri U. C. Patnaik**: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of liberalising the Indian Arms Act has been considered; and

(b) if so, on what lines Government propose to amend the existing Act?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

SUPREME COMMAND OF DEFENCE FORCES

*797. **Shri U. C. Patnaik**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the powers of the Supreme Command of the Defence Forces of India vesting in the President under Article 53(2) have been regularised after the passing of the Constitution; and

(b) if not, under what authority the President issued the two notifications terminating India's war with Germany and Japan?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). The powers to declare war and peace do not vest in the person holding the supreme command of the Armed Forces. They are the functions of the Supreme executive. They fall within the Union executive field under Article 73(1) read with entry 15 in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule, and the executive power accordingly vests in the President under Article 53(1) of the Constitution. In other words, the President acts here in his capacity as the Head of the State and not by virtue of his being vested with the supreme command of the Armed Forces.

PROPERTY DEPOSITED IN FOREIGN BANKS

*805. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee**: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of property deposited

by Indian citizens in banks outside India during the period 15th August 1947 up to date (as far as possible)?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): No property has been permitted to be deposited by Indian citizens in banks outside India during the period 15th August 1947 up-to-date

FAMINE RELIEF (TAMILNAD)

*806. **Shri Balakrishnan**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether military personnel were posted in Tamilnad for famine relief work;

(b) whether military men were sent to Palni Taluk for relief work; and

(c) if so, what kind of relief work was done by the military personnel in the distressed areas?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Three Field Companies Engineers were employed on famine relief work in Tamilnad.

(b) One platoon of a Field Company was employed for relief work at Palni.

(c) 96 wells were deepened and a satisfactory yield of drinking water was obtained.

SYNTHETIC RICE

*897. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi**: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Committee set up to investigate the possibilities of large scale production of synthetic rice and to formulate a detailed scheme for achieving the most economical and expeditious development in its manufacture;

(b) whether any quantity of such rice has been produced in India; and

(c) if so, by what agency and how far it compares with the ordinary rice?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The Committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities of large scale production of synthetic rice and to report to the Government of India on the technical and commercial aspects of the production of synthetic rice on a large scale and to suggest the necessary arrangements for marketing it.