

claiming exemptions and if so who are they?

**Shri Datar:** I have not got the information so far as the latter question is concerned.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know if Government propose to give exemption to this class?

**Shri Datar:** I cannot express any opinion at this stage. It depends on the interpretation of the terms of the Estate Duty Bill and whether the various kinds of property have come under the expression 'property' in the Estate Duty Bill.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it in the contemplation of Government to allow exemptions to princes and other privileged persons outside the scope of the Bill?

**Shri Datar:** Naturally not.

#### COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

**\*1815. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**

(a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have sent a service delegation to participate in the Fourth Commonwealth Defence Conference which is being held in London from the 20th April, 1953 to 9th May, 1953?

(b) If so, how many delegates are participating in the aforesaid Conference?

(c) Who is leading the Indian delegation?

(d) What is the nature of the agenda that is placed before the Conference?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) Yes.

(b) Six Indian delegates will participate of whom two have gone from India.

(c) Col. N. N. Chopra, Controller of Stores Development, Army Headquarters.

(d) Among the subjects to be discussed at the Conference are technical and scientific development in the design and inspection of general Defence Stores, equipment and clothing.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know, Sir, how many Commonwealth countries are participating in this Conference?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** All the Commonwealth countries.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know, Sir, whether the Conference will only discuss scientific and technical development problems or the question of the security of South-East Asia is also going to be considered?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** No questions relating to security of South East Asia or any other part are to be discussed. It is a conference purely for the exchange of information on the development of the equipment, clothing and stores—stores including the methods of storing and inspection of stores, etc.

#### KOH-I-NOOR JEWEL

**\*1816. Shri P. L. Kureel:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the British regime articles of historical importance, art treasures antiques and rarities were taken out of India by the then Government and sent to England;

(b) whether it is a fact that amongst the things so sent is included the historical jewel Koh-i-Noor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arrived at some understanding with the British Government on the question of the return of the rarities and antiques mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) whether Government have included the famous Koh-i-Noor in the list of articles which are sought to be claimed back from the British Government?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

**Shri P. L. Kureel:** Do Government propose to make a representation to recover the jewel?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** They are making all sorts of attempts to get as much of these articles as possible.

**Shri P. L. Kureel:** Have Government received any representation from any scientist in this regard?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I am not aware of any representation having been received from any scientist in this regard.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** May I know whether Government propose to

take the question to the U.N.O. if the demand for their return is not accepted by the British Government?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** This aspect of the question has not come before the Government.

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** May I know whether the historical Peacock Throne is one of these articles?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Yes, Sir, the Peacock Throne and Koh-i-Noor are certainly among those articles.

#### BUILDINGS IN BAHLOON CANTONMENT

\*1817. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government, Military and Civil buildings in Bahloon Cantonment and Dalhousie Municipal Committee areas that are lying vacant for want of occupants;

(b) the steps that Government are taking or intend to take in the near future to make use of these buildings; and

(c) the amount that Government annually spend on the repairs of these buildings?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) 31.

(b) The vacant accommodation is proposed to be allotted to troops who are to be moved there shortly.

(c) Rs. 3000/- approximately.

#### REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

\*1818. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the existing financial procedures are being reviewed and examined in co-operation with the Planning Commission with a view to ensure that (i) no wastage of resources occurs, (ii) that public money is not misapplied and (iii) that for money spent adequate results are obtained?

(b) If so, what progress has been made in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) and (b). Existing financial procedures have been drawn up with a view to achieve the objects mentioned, and these are reviewed and examined, as and when necessary, with a view to effect improvements. The Planning Commission has made certain recommendations in this regard, and these are now under consideration.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether there is any proposal to set up a special agency for this purpose and, if so, how long it will take to come to a decision in this regard?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** As I said, they are under examination. A Committee consisting of certain Secretaries to Government with the Finance Secretary as a member is now examining this matter. They are meeting even today, they have held four meetings, and they will be recommending certain things.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India has been consulted or is likely to be consulted in these matters?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** If necessary he will be consulted.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May we know the principal directions in which the Planning Commission contemplates change in the financial procedure so far followed?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** The recommendations are there in the Planning Commission's Report, and I would refer my hon friend to page 36 of the Summary wherein he will find all the information.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the results, or the expenditure and loss incurred, in the various State trading concerns have been examined by this Committee or is likely to be examined by this Committee?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** All the procedural matters regarding financial control will be examined by this Committee.

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND CANADA REGARDING CANADIAN WHEAT

\*1820. **Shri L. J. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there were any agreements entered into between India and Canada as to the Canadian wheat supplied to India?

(b) If so, what are the main features of the agreement?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). There were no formal agreements. Wheat was supplied by the Government of Canada as part of their aid to India under the Colombo Plan Programme during 1951-52 and 1952-53. The only condition attached to this assistance was that the counterpart rupee funds arising from the sale of wheat be used by