

(b) The Officer will contact important firms dealing with such machinery in the U.K. and in the Continent.

(c) Yes, as much as is possible under the circumstances. Besides, the idea behind purchasing the machinery is to produce sufficient quantity of synthetic rice for consumer trial on a fairly large scale.

(d) Unless the Government get all information from Europe about the character and capacity of the machinery, it will not be possible to give any accurate idea of the cost of the proposed synthetic food, but with the present prices of raw-materials required for the production of synthetic rice it can be presumed that the price will very favourably compare with the prices of other food commodities.

(e) The consumer acceptability trials conducted so far in Mysore and other centres with preparation made from synthetic rice go to indicate that the consumers have found the product readily acceptable and easily digested.

MANUSCRIPT IN SANSKRIT

*294. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that certain old manuscripts in Sanskrit have recently been unearthed in Mysore, which give details of manufacture of various types of aeroplanes and also production of rain by artificial means; and

(b) whether Government have made arrangements to study these manuscripts?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) It is understood from the Government of Mysore that no authentic information is available on the subject except some notices published in the press by one Josyer.

(b) Does not arise.

SAND-STONES

*295. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state whether any investigation has been made to obtain domestic Talcs (Sand-Stones) in India?

(b) What is its prospect in Bihar?

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

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statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 4]

HYDERABAD STATE BANK

*296. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to merge the Hyderabad State Bank with the Reserve Bank of India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): No, Sir.

STAMP DEPARTMENT OF HYDERABAD

*297. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to merge the Stamp Department of Hyderabad with the Nasik Security Printing Press to utilise the machines which hitherto printed the Nizam's post cards and stamps?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): No, Sir, as they are surplus to requirements.

FINANCIAL HELP TO RAJASTHAN

*298. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state whether Rajasthan's demand for financial help has been met by the Central Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The request has been met to the extent possible.

ARTIFICIAL RICE

*299. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research on the production of artificial rice has shown any prospects of supply in considerable quantities this year; and

(b) whether it contains as much nutrition as natural rice?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The production of synthetic rice on a large scale has not yet been attempted. The Government of India have sent the Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, abroad to study in detail the possibilities of large scale production of synthetic rice generally and more particularly the nature of equipment required and its working conditions. This officer will submit a report to the Government of India for consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir.