

Shri Tyagi: Regarding inspection of food and food articles, medical officers are required under the regulations to exercise a watchful supervision on all articles of food. If there has been any lapse somewhere, I shall be glad to have information and investigate into it.

Shri Nanadas: Is it not a fact that the Hunter Class destroyers and frigates have not got any doctor on board the ship?

Dr. M. M. Das: No, no; there are.

Shri Tyagi: My hon. friend wants to reply.

Mr. Speaker: The question is addressed to the hon. Minister.

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that our Naval ratings are satisfied with the quantity of rations supplied to them, but bitterly complain about its quality?

Shri Tyagi: I never expected it from my hon. friend. He has been on the cruise and he has seen quite a number of our ships. I believe the ratings are quite satisfied with the quality of food supplied to them.

M.E.S. BUILDINGS

*621. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state how much increase in revenue under the heading 'rent' has accrued in the year 1952-53, as a result of enhancement of the rental value of buildings on account of the abnormal repairs carried out by the Military Engineering Services?

(b) What is the anticipated increase in 1953-54, on this account?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). Government orders were issued on the 29th June 1953, enhancing, with effect from 1-7-53, the pooled assessed rent by 20 per cent. in the case of those temporary buildings in respect of which abnormal repairs have been carried out.

In accordance with the rules in force at present, service officers on the New Pay Code are liable to pay rent at 5 per cent. of their pay or the assessed rent of the residential building whichever is less, irrespective of the type of accommodation provided, permanent or temporary. As rent at 5 per cent. of pay is less than the assessed rent, the question of an increase in revenue under the heading 'rent' has not so far arisen, in respect of officers governed by the New Pay Code.

As regards such temporary accommodation as is occupied by officers other than those governed by the New Pay Code, the requisite information, not being readily available, will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri T. N. Singh: How does the repairing cost and the enhancement as calculated compare with the repairing cost and enhancement made on the civilian side?

Sardar Majithia: I require notice of that question because the civilian side has to be consulted.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: May I know whether during recent years almost all MES works including repairs and white washing are being done through contractors involving middlemen's profit and inflation of expenditure, thus entailing a larger rent?

Sardar Majithia: The question only related to temporary accommodation. So far as temporary accommodation is concerned, we take necessary precautions to see that the work is being done at the cheapest possible rate.

ORDNANCE DEPOTS

*622. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the progress of the re-organisation programme undertaken in the various Ordnance Depots of the country?

(b) Is it expected to be finished by the target date?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The re-