

Shri Dabhi: May I know to what extent the steps taken have proved effective?

Shri Datar: The steps are now in the last stage of implementation.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, how many cases are pending and for how long are they pending?

Shri Dabhi: Is it not a fact that the delay in the issue of the necessary permits to licensees in several cases has compelled people to offer bribes to the officers concerned?

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, by what time all these measures will come into force?

Shri Datar: They will come into force within a few days.

ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR PEPSU

*902. **Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electoral rolls for the next general elections in PEPSU have been published; and

(b) if not, when these will be published?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). Arrangements have been completed by the PEPSU Government for the publication of the final electoral rolls on the 15th December, 1953, that is tomorrow.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know, Sir, the date of holding of the elections in PEPSU?

Dr. Katju: I expect to make an announcement about this tomorrow or possibly the day after. The elections will be held some time towards the end of February.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know, Sir, the number of objections and claims

received by the Government and the action taken thereon?

Dr. Katju: I want notice of that question.

FLEXIBLE STONE

*904. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any 'flexible' stone is found in Mohindargarh District of PEPSU State; and

(b) whether it has been exploited for any particular use?

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

(b) No, Sir. Exploitation of mineral resources is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of PEPSU have reported that the stone in question has not been exploited for any particular use so far. No commercial use of the stone except as a curio piece is yet known.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Do the State Government or the Central Government contemplate making an enquiry into the potentialities of the further uses that it may be put to?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have already made some enquiries and our experts inform us that there is no particular use for this stone except that in certain cases it was used as building material.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know, Sir, what are the qualities of this flexible stone?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know, Sir.

WHOLESALE PRICES INDEX

*905. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the index number of wholesale prices in India in the first and second quarters of 1953?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): A statement giving the required information is laid on the