

**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

Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 49.]

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know how far the import and export policy of the Government affect these index prices?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The price index is the result of a number of forces, and it is difficult to say precisely quantitatively the effect of Government import and export policy on this. But generally, as I said earlier, it is the result of a number of factors governing the economic policy of the Government.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, if Government have made any comparison with the economic index prices of foreign countries for this period?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** The price situation is under the continuous study of the Reserve Bank as part of its normal duty as a Central Bank and such comparison is always made by it as part of its study.

**Shri Nanadas:** There has been a continuous rise in the whole-sale price index during the first half of 1953. May I know, Sir, the reasons for that rise in price?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** As I said, Sir, it is difficult to give any precise reasons for this rise in price. The probable reasons are the smaller output of some crops in 1952-53 season, especially in respect of cotton, groundnuts and tea, secondly, the steep fall in import and some increase in export through the demand for cotton textiles, and thereby the revival in the speculative interest in some commodities. So, the rise in price may be the cumulative effect of all these forces.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** May I know whether Government have under consi-

deration the revision of the whole-sale index of prices by changing the weights and the base year?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** No, Sir.

#### MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

**\*907. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan for the establishment of a mountaineering school in Darjeeling with Shri Tenzing as the Chief Instructor, has been received by Government; and

(b) if so, the main features of the plan?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि किसी और संस्था ने भी गवर्नमेंट के पास इस प्रकार का आवेदन पत्र भेजा है कि उसे भी सहायता दी जाय ?

**श्री के० डी० मालवीय :** जी, हाँ, जो सूचना हमारे पास है उस से मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि एक और सरकारी संस्था दार्जीलिंग में कायम की जा रही है। तेनसिंह और ग्लैथर्ड, जो स्विस् माउंटेनियरिंग स्कूल के विशेषज्ञ हैं, वह मिल कर एक योजना बना रहे हैं। केन्द्रीय सरकार और प्रादेशिक सरकार भी इस में सहायता करने वाली है।

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know, what will be the contribution of the Central Government towards the starting of this institution?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Nothing has been decided just now.