

RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*1703. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the setting up of the proposed Rubber Research Institute at Poona; and

(b) the reaction of the Rubber Manufacturers' Association to this proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). A proposal to form a Research Association for Rubber Industries in India is being examined by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in consultation with the Rubber Manufacturers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: As regards part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has not given the reaction of the Rubber Manufacturers' Association to this proposal.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Originally, there was a scheme proposed by the Calcutta Association of the rubber manufacturers, which was not quite acceptable to the Bombay Association. Latterly, the Bombay Association was requested to come forward with their scheme. They also made certain proposals which were examined by the Director of the National Chemical Research Laboratory, Poona. But as there was still some difference between the two Associations of Bombay and Calcutta, the Director of the National Chemical Research Laboratory has been requested to prepare his own scheme, and that scheme is now being considered by both the Associations.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the location of the Institute at Poona will be more economical?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is what the present recommendation indicates.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the refresher course in rubber technology, which is now being carried on at the Kharagpur Institute will help this research?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have no information.

Shri Kelappan: Is there any proposal to start the Institute in any rubber-growing area?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Just now, the proposal which is under the consideration of Government is to start the Institute at Poona.

MANIPUR STATE BANK

*1704. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the Manipur State Bank,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up any branch of a Scheduled Bank to cater to the needs of people of that State; and

(c) whether Government had the accounts of the Manipur State Bank audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General last year?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee, the Imperial Bank of India have agreed to open a branch at Imphal.

(c) A general examination of the accounts of the bank was conducted by the Accountant-General, Assam.

FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT IN KOREA

*1705. **Shri L. Jageswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose awarding an appropriate medal to all Indians who served in the Korean theatre with the Indian Field Ambulance Unit, in appreciation of their work;

(b) if so, the particulars of such award; and

(c) the time by which it can be expected?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). It is not proposed to institute a special medal for service in the Korean theatre. Under a Notification issued on the 28th July 1953, an Overseas Clasp can be worn with the General Service Medal 1947 for operational service ex-India. The qualifying conditions regarding period etc. are prescribed by Government for each operation separately.

Personnel of the India Field Ambulance unit who served in the Korean theatre are entitled to the Overseas Clasp. Government have under examination qualifying conditions for award of the Overseas Clasp for operational service in the Korean theatre and it is hoped to announce them shortly.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: How many of the Indians who went to Korea deserve this award?

Shri Satish Chandra: It has not been settled finally. The details are being worked out, and will be announced in due course.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: Do Government propose to award similar and appropriate medals to the Indian troops which served in the Korean theatre, along with the NNRC?

Shri Satish Chandra: I think all military personnel who have served outside India will be considered for the award of this clasp. But the matter is under consideration.

COLOMBO PLAN CONFERENCE

*1706. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred in the railway journeys of the delegates to the Colombo Plan Conference held in New Delhi in 1953?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Rs. 44,719.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it a fact that the best saloons were commandeered from the different railway systems of

India, to enable these delegates to travel to some of our project areas?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: There was no saloon. It was a tourist train.

LAND CUSTOMS OFFICE AT ALIPURDUAR

*1708. **Shri Katham:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have abolished the Land Customs Office of Alipurduar in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received by Government from the affected traders; and

(d) if so, whether Government intend to re-open the office?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). Alipurduar is not at present formally declared as a Land Customs Station, but Customs clearances are nevertheless being given to traders at that place as a special case.

(c) Yes. This was at a time when customs clearances at Alipurduar were stopped for a brief period. —

(d) The office has already been reopened, but the question of the retention of the office is under consideration.

Shri Barman: When will the final decision be reached in regard to the retention of the office?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already stated that the matter is under consideration, and I think shortly it will be finalised.

LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN DELHI

*1709. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether a communication was issued to the Directorate of Education, Delhi for the revision of the pay scales of language teachers; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon?