

Shri M. C. Shah: Article 286 is very clear on the point. Government have come to the conclusion that after the consideration of the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, these things can be considered. Government will then consider what legislative action can be taken under article 286.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the total time that they are likely to take over this matter?

Shri M. C. Shah: We are very keen to have this matter settled as early as possible.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

*1086. **Shri R. S. Diwan:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state the main items of research done by the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi since its inception which have been useful to the existing industries in the country or have helped to start new ones?

The Minister in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 3.]

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know if there is any organisation or body to keep liaison between the industrialists and the laboratory?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. There is an organisation in the Ministry—the National Research Development Corporation—which is concerned with pilot scale experimentation.

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know if the scientist takes the initiative himself on certain fundamental problems and if the authorities there assist and encourage him?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Scientists receive all possible encouragement to examine and pursue their research work in the laboratory.

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know if they are given assistance and encouragement by the people who are responsible there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, obviously.

Shri R. S. Diwan: May I know if one of the scientists there had brought out a thermo-electrical generator which will be a better substitute for running a radio? May I also know if he was not given proper assistance and encouragement?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have no specific information regarding what has been referred to by the hon. Member. If he has any information, he can pass it on to me so that I might examine it.

BISPAT (IMMATURE TOBACCO LEAVES)

*1088. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 955 on the 15th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether after the recession of floods in North Bengal (Cooch-Behar and Jalpaiguri Districts), any further steps have been taken to ascertain the quantity of 'Bispat' (immature tobacco leaves); and

(b) whether Government have decided to preserve 'Bispat' by conceding it a lower rate of duty?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir. Accurate statistics are not available. It is, however, estimated that the quantity of 'Bispat' (immature tobacco leaves) to the total quantity of tobacco produced in West Bengal would be less than 2 per cent.

(b) No, Sir. Government have not come to any such decision.

I may state, Sir, that on the previous occasion I gave an assurance that I would make some enquiries. In pursuance of that assurance a statement has been laid on the Table of the House giving all the information that we could collect in the mean time.