

The hon. Member is absent.

Shri Naval Prabhakar: Question No. 423.

हिन्दी प्रबोध परीक्षा

*४२३. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिन्दी प्रबोध परीक्षा में गत वर्ष केन्द्रीय सरकार के कितने कर्मचारी और पदाधिकारी बैठे थे; और

(ख) उन में कितने आई० सी० एस० पदाधिकारी थे ।

शिक्षा मंत्री के सभासचिव (डा० एम० एम० दास) : (क) ६८१ ।

(ख) कोई नहीं ।

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Are we to suppose that all the I.C.S. officers know Hindi?

Dr. M. M. Das: We cannot suppose that all the I.C.S. officers know Hindi; but so far as these particular classes are concerned, no I.C.S. officer attends these classes.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Rifles

*421. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the Rifles used by the Defence Forces which is manufactured in India;

(b) whether the Defence Forces are still using Rifles manufactured in foreign countries;

(c) when the last purchase of Rifles from foreign countries was made; and

(d) what was the total value paid for that lot?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Approximately 94% of the main types of Rifles in use with the Army are of indigenous manufacture.

(b) Yes, because of the existence of old stocks of these rifles, which will not be replaced by fresh purchases.

(c) Last purchase of Rifles from foreign countries was made during the year 1948.

(d) The value paid was Rs. 67,92,293/5/4.

Exhibition of Hindi Books, Maps and Charts

*430. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1903 on the 5th April, 1955 and state when the proposed Exhibition of Hindi Books, Maps, Charts etc. will be held and for how long it will last?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): The Exhibition is going to be inaugurated on the 12th August, 1955 and will last till the 21st August, 1955.

Underground Water in West Bengal

*433. **Shri Subodh Hasda:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India have discovered a belt of Permanent Water Source in the West Bengal below the earth surface; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to lift the water?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 48].

Appointment Board, Manipur

*438. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Appointment Board was constituted in 1954 by the Government of Manipur for the appointment of clerks and Grade IV Officers in the Government services of Manipur;

(b) whether the Appointment Board still exists; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) No. It was discontinued with effect from the 25th May, 1955.

(c) It was considered that the responsibility for the selection of suitable candidates should rest squarely on the Appointing Authorities. The association of superior officers with the Committees would hamper the exercise or enforcement of such responsibility. Employment of high level officers for appointment of Class IV personnel was not considered warranted in view of the existing heavy load of work.