

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I think it should be done very soon.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Firm targets have not been fixed as per the Second Plan for plantation industry. May I enquire when the Government would be in a position to fix targets for that industry?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As far as rubber is concerned, targets have more or less been arrived at. We have arrived at a target for production of 29,100 tons of natural rubber by 1960.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know whether the scheme for expansion of rubber cultivation will be affected in any way by the proposal of Government to produce synthetic rubber, and if so to what extent?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As I have often said in this House, there is no conflict between synthetic rubber and natural rubber. Natural rubber, as the hon. Members are aware, takes a very long time to grow and requires a particular type of soil. The requirements of the country by 1965 of natural rubber plus synthetic rubber are going to be about 55,000 tons. The natural rubber yield will not be more than 35,000 tons and, therefore, the gap of 20,000 tons has to be covered by production of synthetic rubber. Hence, the proposal of manufacturing synthetic rubber has been contemplated by the Government.

**Shri Matthen:** Just a couple of months ago, I understood from the Ministry of Industries and Commerce that a proposal has been finalised for starting a company by the Government, the Government having 51 per cent. of the shares, for planting rubber in about 20,000 acres of land. I heard it has been finalised. Has it been started or has the Kerala Government been asked to take the initiative in the matter?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This proposal is under very active considera-

tion, and the Kerala Government have intimated to us their agreement for starting such a corporation.

#### Suicide at the Jabalpur Training Centre

\*112. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer to Short Notice Question No. 10, on the 18th December, 1956, regarding suicide of an Officer at the Jabalpur Training Centre and state:

(a) whether the enquiry in the matter has been concluded;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) No evidence has been discovered or adduced to support the main allegations made by the late Shri Matade that he was harassed by the Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Training Centre.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri Kamath:** May I know who conducted this enquiry and whether all the persons mentioned by the officer who committed suicide, mentioned by him in his last statement,— were summoned to give evidence before the officer who held the enquiry?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The P.M.G., Nagpur, was an independent officer conducting the enquiry, because he has the jurisdiction which is under the Additional Chief Engineer, Telegraphs. He took all possible evidence that was available.

**Shri Kamath:** Is the Minister in a position to lay a copy of the report of the enquiry on the Table, or at least a resume, a summary, of that report on the Table of the House?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I would have no objection. I would lay a brief summary of the report on the Table.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the Enquiry Officer considered the two letters which this particular gentleman who committed suicide has written—one to his wife and the other to his superior officer—before he committed suicide?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** These letters were taken into consideration by the Enquiry Officer. About the allegation of harassment, I might say that in the normal course, it would be expected that if the Divisional Engineer, who was his immediate superior, was causing him any harassment, he should have brought that matter to the notice of the next higher officer, namely, the Additional Chief Engineer or the next higher officer, the Chief Engineer. No such report was ever made by the unfortunate officer who committed suicide. The allegation of harassment has not also been found to be substantiated.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Irrespective of the findings in the report, may I know whether the Government have taken any steps to warn the officers mentioned in the letters referred to, that they should be above-board?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As a matter of fact, from the enquiry itself, it appears that the only difference of opinion was in regard to the allotment of duties between the wireless supervisors and to the shifting of one of the officers from one building to another. These are two general points in which there was a difference of opinion and they may not be considered, by any stretch of imagination, to be a harassment.

**Shri Kamath:** Did the enquiry elicit the fact that the officer who had committed suicide had made representations earlier to the authorities here, through his superior officer, and that they were suppressed by the superior officer and not transmitted to the higher authorities?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have already stated that there was no such representation made to the higher officers, nor any such complaint made.

#### Atomic Reactor

\*114. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the experiments carried out in Nuclear physics at the Indian Atomic Reactor;

(b) whether the Atomic Energy Establishment is planning to start a reactor school with the help of scientists from other countries?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 24].

(b) It is proposed to start a reactor school, but no foreign assistance is required for this purpose.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know how many experiments were successful?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I have mentioned in the list the number of experiments which have been carried out in this plant.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know how many plants are working at present?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I do not have the information at present.

**Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** May I know whether isotopes are produced in this reactor?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I want notice.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know what progress has been made towards the establishment of an atomic power plant, and whether the Government have any definite scheme for it?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I want notice.

#### International Court of Justice

\*115. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the progress, up-to-date, of the proceedings in the case filed by Portugal against India in the Court of International Justice at Hague?