

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Out of 31,790 applications received for *ex-gratia* grant, 16894 cases have been finalised.

(b) 14896 cases still remain to be processed. The delay in the finalization of these cases is due to the non-receipt of verification reports from the Jammu & Kashmir State Government. It is, however, expected that these cases would be finalized by the end of the next financial year.

Experimental Drug Farm, Srinagar.

488. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building for research etc., which has been under construction for the last two years in the Experimental Drug Farm, in Srinagar, is not yet ready to be occupied; and

(b) whether Government will expedite the completion of the main building and other appertinent quarters in order to accelerate the research work?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to complete the building by the middle of 1965.

Solar Energy

491. **Shri M. L. Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to utilise solar energy for cooking purposes;

(b) the progress achieved so far;

(c) when it is likely to make this energy available to the people; and

(d) how far it is economical?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) to (c). A solar Cooker was developed and the patent was leased out to two firms through the National Research Development Corporation. According to information available with the National Research

Development Corporation, 315 cookers and 50 reflectors were sold by the manufacturers till June, 1960. The patent was not renewed thereafter.

(d) The solar cooker though economical in the long run has not proved popular owing to its use being limited to hours of bright sunshine only; its high initial cost (Rs. 80 per piece); and traditional cooking habits in the country.

Pay Commission for Secondary Teachers

492. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhaviya:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Secondary Teachers Federation has, of late, demanded the appointment of a Pay Commission or a Wage Board for evolving more or less uniform pay scales for secondary teachers all over the country; and

(b) if so, the Government's decision in this regard?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sulphuric Acid Plant

493. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sulphuric acid plant is proposed to be set up in Gujarat with Japanese collaboration;

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration; and

(c) the cost and capacity of the plant?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) No. It is however being examined if machineries for a sulphuric acid plant can be supplied by a Japanese firm.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.