

tion No. 2095 on the 10th May, 1956, and state:

(a) whether any decision has been reached with regard to enhancing the rate of contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund from 6½ to 8½ per cent. under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952;

(b) if so, when this will be given effect to; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

Training in Meteorology

*1313. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to send some officers to Australia for the training in Meteorology; and

(b) if so, when will they be sent there?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is not proposed to depute any officer to Australia for training in Meteorology, but the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have deputed a Radio Physicist to Australia for training in Rain and Cloud Physics and they also propose to send another officer for training in that country as soon as necessary arrangements are completed.

Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement

*1314. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 345 on the 1st August, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the terms of the Indo-Japanese Agreement which expired on the 27th April, 1956 have been extended; and

(b) if so, the changes, if any that have been made?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The Hon. Member is presumably referring to the most-favoured-nation treatment clause in article 2 of the Treaty of Peace between India and Japan. If so, the provisions thereof have been extended upto 31st March 1957.

Pakistan Raids in Kashmir

*1315. { **Shri Gidwani:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids carried out by Pakistan into the Indian side of the cease-fire line in Kashmir from January, 1956 to August, 1956;

(b) the loss of life and Property caused by these raids; and

(c) whether any relief had been given to the sufferers from these raids?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) There were no raids but some incidents under the category of "cease fire violations" were reported to the United Nations Military Observers.

(b) There was no loss of life or property.

(c) Does not arise.

Dye-stuffs

*1316. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the dye-stuffs needed in the country is imported from abroad;

(b) whether there is any programme of stepping up production of dye-stuffs during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether the execution of that programme will enable the country to be self-sufficient in dye-stuffs?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) About 85.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to work out a programme in consultation with the parties interested in developing this industry. According to the present plans, the country's 60% to 70% requirements of dye-stuffs may be met by indigenous production by the end of Second Plan period.

Atomic Energy for Industrial Purposes

*1317. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any scheme for producing atomic energy for industrial purposes has been formulated?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): India's main need is power for industrial development, which must be given priority. Indian efforts has, therefore, been con-

centrated on seeing that some electricity from atomic power is available in India within the next few years. The economic feasibility of setting up one or more atomic power stations during the Second Five Year Plan period is under study. The Indian atomic energy programme is being planned so that India will not have to depend on other countries for its atomic raw materials.

Loans for House-building

*1318. **Shrimati Tarkeahwari Sinha** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any change in the policy of Government in regard to giving loans to Government employees for house-building ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the change in advancing loan for this purpose ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sanekatta Salt Works

*1319. **Shri Kajrolkar** : Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether any investigation has so far been made into the possibilities of production of by-products at the Sanekatta Salt Works in North Kanara District; and

(b) whether Government have received any suggestions for setting up a caustic soda industry in Sanekatta ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) and (b). No Sir.

Dry Fruit Imports

*1320. **Dr. J. N. Parekh** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import quota system has recently been introduced for the import of dry fruits from Afghanistan ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether it is a fact that because of quota system, prices of dry fruits have shot up in the country ;

(d) if so, to what extent ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken normalize the position ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Kar-markar) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign exchange considerations.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Mandi Rock Salt Mines

*1321. **Shri Hem Raj** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 488 on 30th November, 1956 and to state the causes which have led to the stoppage of the drilling operations in the Mandi Rock Salt Mines ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : Core drilling operations undertaken to ascertain the reserves of rock salt at Mandi, revealed the existence of sufficient reserves to justify development of the Mines on scientific lines. Further drilling operations were not considered necessary after June, 1955.

Training of Indian Scientists in Nuclear Science

*1322. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee** : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present position in regard to the training of Indian scientists in nuclear science, engineering and reactor technology ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : The Department of Atomic energy is organising a school for training 250 post-graduate students annually in Chemistry, Engineering, Metallurgy and Physics to meet the requirements of the atomic energy programme. The Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay has some 300 scientists and engineers on its staff and the number will grow to some 800 by 1958.

Demarcation of Indo-Pakistan Border

*1323. **Shri M. Islamuddin** : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 479 on the 29th March, 1955 and state :

(a) whether the demarcation by means of pucca pillars of the Indo-Pakistan land riverine boundary between Bihar and East Bengal has been completed by now ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda) : (a) and (b). The boundary between East Pakistan and the Indian territory formerly in Bihar and now merged in West Bengal is about 140 miles long, out of which about