

to expansion and growth of natural rubber was discussed ;

(c) whether I.R.I. held a symposium on control techniques in rubber compounding ; and

(d) whether rubber technologists who participated in the symposium hoped that the *per capita* rubber consumption in India will become largest outside Europe and North America after a decade ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GLORGE : (a) to (d). A Meeting of the Indian Section of the Institution of the Rubber Industry (London) is reported to have been held recently in Calcutta. Government have, however, no precise information about the deliberations of this meeting.

Research made by Scientists of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay

1724. SHRI S C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, said that a group of scientists, led by Prof. D. Lal of the Tata Institute, had found evidence for the existence of super-heavy elements so far unknown ;

(b) if so, whether such elements have been synthesized in the laboratory ; and

(c) what further studies are going to be taken up in near future ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir, in an examination of extra terrestrial materials (from meteorite and lunar samples returned from the Appollo Mission) Professor D. Lal and his colleagues of the

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research have found what appears to be good evidence concerning the existence in the past of super heavy elements much heavier than uranium and probably with a charge around 115 and mass around 300.

(b) No, Sir, not as yet.

(c) Studies are being continued in order to establish in a larger sample and with better precision the above deduction.

Financial Assistance to Punjab

1725. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance sought by the Government of Punjab from the Central Government for the implementation of their schemes during the current Five Year Plan ; and

(b) whether the Central Government have taken any decision about the quantum of assistance to be provided to the State Government and if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) The Government of Punjab envisaged Central assistance of the order of atleast Rs. 190 crores for financing the State's Fourth Plan outlay of Rs. 325 crores as originally proposed.

(b) Central assistance of Rs. 101 crores has been allocated to finance the approved Fourth Plan outlay of Rs. 293.56 crores. This amount has been fixed according to the formula based on uniformly applied criteria approved by the Committee of the National Development Council.

Special Facilities for Central Government Employees working in Border Areas

1726. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme to grant special