

toms authorities at Calcutta in the first week of January, 1964 from the factory premises of a firm in Calcutta manufacturing electric fans and sewing machines, the main office of the firm's sole agents, and the residence of a person handling the affairs of the firms. No formal search was found necessary. In Delhi, the business premises of the same firms were searched by the Delhi Customs authorities on the 4th January, 1964, and some documents were seized. The firms were suspected of foreign exchange violations.

(c) The case is under investigation.

L.I.C. Investment in Malaysia

- *80. {
 Shri P. K. Ghosh:
 Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:
 Shri Kapur Singh:
 Shri Solanki:
 Shri P. H. Bheel:
 Shri Himatsingka:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a statement by the Chairman of L.I.C. in which it has been stated that L.I.C. proposes to invest in industrial concerns in Malaysia;

(b) if so, details of the proposed investment; and

(c) whether investment will be in public sector or private sector?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation in a statement made at Singapore in January 1964 indicated that the Corporation would explore the possibilities of investing its funds in industrial con-

cerns or in real property or in mortgage loans. As no definite proposals were made or discussed, and as the investments in Malaysia will have to be made in accordance with the provisions of the local laws and the Corporation's own statute, it is not possible to indicate any details at the present stage.

Central Soil Mechanics and Material Testing Laboratory

- *81. {
 Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a central soil mechanics and material testing laboratory has been set up in the Central Water and Power Commission;

(b) if so, the object of setting up the laboratory; and

(c) the expenses to be incurred and how these will be met?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir. The laboratory was set up in 1954. It is being expanded.

(b) To assist the Central and State Governments in the investigation and quality control during construction of river valley projects and flood control works.

(c) For the expansion programme an expenditure of Rs. 19.75 lakhs is proposed to be incurred over a period of 5 years for the site, building, staff and running of the Laboratory. This amount will be met by the Government of India. In addition, equipment worth Rs. 16.00 lakhs is being obtained under the U.N. Special Fund Assistance.