

**The Minister of Planning (Shri B. E. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). A letter was sent by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao not to the Chief Ministers of States, but to the State Ministers incharge of welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes requesting them to attend the Seminar on the employment problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, held in New Delhi from 30th January, 1964 to 1st February, 1964. The Seminar was attended by Ministers incharge of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Mysore, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Minister for Finance Manipur; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Rajasthan; Officers from all State Governments; Shri Jagjivan Ram, Shri B. S. Murthy, Deputy Minister for Community Development, Shri U. N. Dhebar, Shri Jaipal Singh and Prof. M. N. Srinivas of Delhi University. A report of the Seminar is under preparation and will be sent to the State Governments for assessing their reactions.

#### Awards for Central Excise Officers

137. { Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Krishna Pal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are planning to give awards to Central Excise Officers;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) by what time it is expected to be given effect to?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) A scheme for grant of awards to Central Excise Officers was introduced in 1962.

(b) A copy of the Scheme is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2277/64].

(c) Awards to 9 officers were announced under the Scheme on the Republic Day, the 26th January, 1964.

#### Cancer killing Herb

138. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 638 on the 12th September, 1963 regarding cancer killing herb and state the further progress made with regard to the researches and popularising the same?

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** Clinical trials with the drug have been arranged by M/s Sandoz in six institutions in the country, namely, the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay; G. S. Medical College, Bombay, the Cancer Institute, Madras; the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore; the Chittaranjan Cancer Research Centre, Calcutta and the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Calcutta. These trials are still in progress and have not yet been completed. The potentialities of this drug can be confirmed only after the results of the above trials are available. The question of taking steps to popularise the drug does not therefore arise at this stage.

It is, however, understood that a drug based on the active principles from *Podophyllum hexandrum* was marketed in Switzerland in early 1963. The drug is not commercially available in India yet.

#### Skin Diseases by use of Nylon

139. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have reached the conclusion that the use of nylon acetate, terylene produces skin diseases; and

(b) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) and (b). No investigation has been carried out in this country. Information from other countries is not conclusive as to whether the cases reported are due to nylon itself. In tropical countries it