

नहीं दी जाती वहाँ सालिड में दी जाती हैं। इन बातों को देखते हुए क्या सरकार इसके प्रयोग की ओर भविष्य में ध्यान देगी। कम से कम यह छोटा सा आश्वासन मंत्री महोदय दे दें।

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Actual trials concerning the application of liquid ammonia to the soil are going on. The hon. Member drew a distinction by citing the application of gas in the form of nitrogen to the soil. Ammonia, if put under pressure, becomes liquid; but the same thing if the pressure is lifted, becomes gas. Various trials are going on and we may await the results of such trials. I have read in some books that in certain foreign countries liquid ammonia is directly applied to the soil. If liquid ammonia is directly applied the cost of building fertiliser plant will also go down. Let us await the results of the trials going on.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Can you allow my first question now? I was a bit late.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please; I am so sorry. (*Interruptions*).

(Re : S. N. Q. No. 6)

MR. SPEAKER : Short Notice Question Shri Shashi Bhushan—Absent, Shri A Sreedharan—absent.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : He has met with an accident and he has asked me to put this question. He has authorised me to put the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry he met with an accident. We are sorry for that. But I am sorry I cannot allow you. If I depart from procedure even once, their will be no end to it. There is another Member He is also absent.

Next item—Call Attention.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Vatican Status for Nankana Sahib

*691 **SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :**
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government are aware that a deputation of Sikhs met the Pakistan High Commissioner and presented a memorandum demanding Vatican status for Nankana Sahib in Pakistan with a corridor to the Indian border ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up this issue with Pakistan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A deputation of the Sikh Brotherhood International met the Pakistan High Commissioner on 13.11.1970 at New Delhi and presented a memorandum to him demanding Vatican status for Nankana Sahib so that the management and care of this holy place can freely rest in hands of the devotees of Guru Nanak.

(c) No, Sir. The Government do not think that any useful purpose will be served by taking up this question with Pakistan.

Construction of Houses for the Central Government Employees at Chandigarh

*697. **SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had undertaken to build some houses for the Central Government employees at Chandigarh ; if so, the number thereof ;

(b) the number of houses actually constructed and how long it will take to complete the remaining quarters ; and

(c) the total number of houses proposed to be constructed in the Fourth Plan for Government Employees in Chandigarh ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir; 358 houses.

(b) 132 houses have already been constructed. The remaining 226 houses are expected to be completed by December, 1971.

(c) 226.

Purchase of Rough Diamonds from Ghana by National Mineral Development Corporation

*699. SHRI N. K. SOMANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation recently made purchases of rough diamonds from Ghana worth Rs. one crores, at a price much higher than the world market price ; and

(b) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation after it failed to dispose them of, compulsorily sold them to the diamond exporters in India with import concessions etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited have purchased rough diamonds from Ghana. It is not in commercial interest to disclose the details thereof at the present stage.

(b) The diamonds have not yet been put up for sale.

Rise in Pay of U. N. Staff

*700. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has opposed pay rise to U. N. Staff ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether any other country has supported India's view ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) India did not oppose a rise in principle but expressed reservations regarding the proposed eight percent increase on the existing salaries of the professional staff of the U. N.

(b) U. N. civil servants are already the highest paid civil servants in the world and the Organization's financial position is not too good.

(c) India along with 18 other member countries cosponsored a resolution suggesting the creation of an ad hoc committee of Government experts to undertake a thorough review of the long-term principles and criteria which should govern the United Nations system of salaries, allowances and other allied subjects.

Claim of Ceylon on Kachchativu Island

*701. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings held so far for the settlement of Kachchativu Island issue and where and when the next one is to be held ; and

(b) whether Ceylon has contended that the Island had been under their effective control all this time and it belongs to them ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The question of sovereignty over the Island of Kachchativu continues to be discussed between the Governments of India and Ceylon through diplomatic channels as well as at official level at various times. However, no specific meetings for this purpose were proposed to be held when the Prime Ministers of India and Ceylon decided to resolve this as well as other allied questions by discussions,