

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 4th April, 1966/te 14th
Chaitra, 1888 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Maharashtra— Shri M.

C. Chagla

Andhra Pradesh—

1. Shri Akbar Ali Khan
2. Shri Kota Punnaiah
3. Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy

Assam—

Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

Bihar—

1. Shri Sheel Bhadra Yajee
2. Shri R. P. Khaitan
3. Shri P. C. Mitra
4. Shri L. N. Mishra
5. Shri S. N. Mishra
6. Shri Rajendra Pratap Sinha

•*Gujarat*—

1. Dr. Bi N. Antani
2. Shrimati Puspaben Janardanrai Mehta
3. Shri Suresh J. Desai
4. Shri K. S. Chavda

Madhya Pradesh—

1. Shri A. D. Mani
2. Shri Niranjana Varma
3. Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt
4. Raja Shankar Pratap Singh

Madras—

1. Shri T. Chengalvarayan
2. Shri R. T. Parthasarathy
3. Shri G. P. Somasundaram

Maharashtra—■

1. Shri Asoka Mehta
2. Shri K. K. Shah
3. Shri G. R. Patil
4. Shri B. S. Savnekar

Mysore—

1. Shrimati Violet Alva
2. Shri M. S. Gurupada Swamy
3. Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy
4. Shri M. D. Narayan

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Orissa—

1. Shri B. C. Pattanayak
2. Shri Banka Behary Das
3. Shri Lokanath Misra
4. Shri Mahammed Haneef

Punjab—

1. Shri Neki Ram
2. Shri Salig Ram
3. Shri Narindar Singh Brar
4. Shri Raghbir Singh Panjhzari

Rajasthan—

1. Shri Dalpat Singh
2. Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari

Uttar Pradesh—

1. Shri Z. A. Ahmed
2. Shri Hayatullah Ansari
3. Shri G. S. Pathak
4. Shri Jogendra Singh
5. Shri J. C. Chatterji
6. Shri M. R. Shervani
7. Shri K. L. Rathi
8. Shri Sukhdev Prasad
9. Shri H. V. Tripathi

West Bengal—

1. Shri R. S. Doogar
2. Shri Chitta Basu
3. Shri Biren Roy
4. Shri M. M. Sur

Delhi—

Kumari Shanta Vasisht

Manipur— Shri S.

K. Singh

Nominated—

1. Shri M. Ajmal Khan
2. Dr. H. R. Bachchan
3. Shri M. N. Kaul
2. Shri M. C. Setalvad

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I extend a cordial welcome to all the new Members. In doing so, I am not performing a mere formality. To be chosen a Member of this sovereign and supreme body is an honour and a distinction to be cherished. The membership confers on you a privilege and a power which, properly exercised, will enable you to make an abiding contribution to the tasks of nation-building and national achievement

[Mr. Chairman.]

Ours is a free society and the parliamentary form of government ensures the free choice of representation. But it is the very essence of this freedom that the chosen representatives so conduct themselves that they prove worthy of the faith and trust their constituents—the vast millions of our countrymen—have reposed in them. In this Rajya Sabha, I am happy to say, we have established a reputation for dignified conduct and purposeful debate. We have built up traditions of correct parliamentary behaviour. By dispassionate discussion in this House, there is a great deal that we can do for the good of our people. With goodwill and willingness to understand each other's point of view, we shall achieve our objects better. I shall look forward to continued co-operation and assistance from all the Members, so that the course of business in this House may be smooth, and we enhance values of parliamentary institutions and enrich parliamentary life.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

METEOROLOGICAL ROCKET LAUNCHING STATION IN NORTH INDIA

*886. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a meteorological rocket launching station shortly in North India; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):

(a) A scheme for setting up a meteorological rocket launching station in Northwest India has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan of the India Meteorological Department, but has not yet been finalised.

(b) The details of the scheme have not yet been worked out.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, in the construction of the station, are we to receive help from some foreign countries and, if so, what are their names and the nature of assistance coming from them?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: This scheme is going to be financed entirely from our own resources. There is no outside help at the moment envisaged.

SHRI D. THENGARI: What would be the number of personnel, Indian and non-Indian, and what would be the percentage of Indian and non-Indian personnel ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: To the extent we are now working out the scheme, it is hoped that this would be manned entirely by Indian personnel.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The Minister said just now that the details of the scheme have not been worked out, but yet the scheme has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan. I would like to ask him whether the Atomic Energy Establishment recommended to the Government the setting up of such a rocket launching station and whether they have adequate scientific and trained personnel for managing the station.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Yes, Sir. We have at the moment a fair complement of experienced, trained personnel to operate this station, because we have a wing already in Thumba, the space research station. There we have a meteorological wing attached, experience from which has given us confidence that we can operate the station with advantage in this region.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know where this station is going to be located?

SHRI G. M. POONACHA: It is in the Northwest India region. The exact place of location has not yet been finalised.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Has the total cost been worked out?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: At the moment, it is estimated to cost about Rs. 30 lakhs.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: May I know the criteria under which the location of these to Rs. 32 stations is agreed to ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: It is entirely for the technicians and experts to advise the Government on the matter.

*887. [The Questioner (Shri Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 5312 infra.]