

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) : (a) In the first phase of civil works construction, 1,000 residential quarters and a Training School with Hostel have been completed. In the second phase, construction of Factory Buildings has been taken up. This is progressing according to schedule.

(b) The factory is expected to be commissioned during 1968.

(c) The present strength of staff is 800.

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF COAST-LINE

*608. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the period within which the Hydrographic Survey Organisation will be able to complete the survey of the country's 5800 k.m. coastline?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : No time limit has been fixed for the completion of the survey of India's coast line.

DIRECTORS OF NEWS SERVICES, A.I.R.

*609. DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to upgrade the status, powers and administrative and professional responsibilities of the Director of News Services, A.I.R.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Commensurate with the responsibilities of the post, status, and administrative as well as financial powers of the Director of News Services, All India Radio were enhanced last year. There is no proposal at present to further upgrade his status, powers and responsibilities.

(b) Does not arise.

QUARTERS FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

♦610. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Army officers who were not allotted family quarters on their transfer from one station to another, during the last one year;

(b) what are the reasons for not allotting quarters to these officers; and

(c) whether any compensatory allowance in lieu of the quarters is paid to them to meet the expenses of maintaining double establishment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Information about the number of Army Officers who were not allotted family quarters on their transfer from one station to another during the last one year is not available. It is being collected from the local military authorities and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

(b) Inadequacy of married accommodation in many of the stations.

(c) No compensatory allowance in lieu of quarters is paid to the officers. However, a married officer who is not provided with family accommodation at the new duty station is allotted free single accommodation and allied services.

N.C.C. EXAMINATIONS

*611. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the results of "B" and "C" Certificate examinations of Senior Division of N.C.C. of 4th U.P. Bn., held in December, 1963 at Kanpur, have not yet been declared;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; if so, what are such steps; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Due to administrative shortcomings at the time, on account of the great expansion of the N.C.C. following a decision to make it compulsory for the senior division, examinations for this battalion could not be held.

(b) to (d) With the process of consolidation that has since been going on, steps have been taken to remove the administrative shortcomings.

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

*612. SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the research in the Atomic Energy Establishment,

Trombay, has evolved high-yielding strains of rice and if so, what would be their impact upon rice production;

(b) what, if any, are the successful experiments in the use of Atomic Energy with reference to the other food products like groundnuts, maize and tropical fruits; and

(c) whether radio isotopes are being produced in APSARA and if so, with what effect upon industry and medicine ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, has evolved two promising mutants (strains) of rice which have consistently shown a higher yield potential when compared with the original types (controls) from which they were derived.

While it is difficult to give a precise estimate of their impact on rice production, it is expected that the higher yielding mutants evolved would make for generally higher production in the country.

(b) (i) *Groundnut*—Successful results in terms of higher yields have been obtained with groundnut by using ionizing radiations.

(ii) *Maize*—Experiments carried out at Trombay are designed to shed light on the nature of special determinants and the way in which they govern male sterility in maize.

(iii) *Other food products Including tropical fruits*—Gamma radiation from Cobalt 60 sources has been successfully used in Laboratory experiments for delayed ripening of mangoes, guavas, sapotas and tomatoes, for preservation of semi-dried bananas and for sterilized (canned) products such as mango, guava and sapota slices, with improved attributes of flavour, texture, taste and colour.

Promising results have also been obtained on use of radiation for grain disinfection, preservation of *chapathis* and extension in shelf-life of fish like "Bombay duck" and shrimps.

(c) Radioisotopes produced in Apsara and CIRUS are being supplied to about 150 medical institutions and industrial establishments. In the medical field the use of radioisotopes for diagnostic purposes and therapy, particularly in the field of cancer, treatment has helped in the alleviation of human suffering. In industry the use of isotopes ensures proper quality control particularly for non-destructive testing in castings and welds.

VIETNAM PEACE CONFERENCE

*613. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of South-East Asian Nations has been convened by Thailand to consider the problem of peace in Vietnam; and

(b) if so, whether Government have received invitation for attending this conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, but the Foreign Ministers of Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines have approached a number of countries, including India, to join them in an urgent appeal to the leaders of all countries involved in the war in Vietnam to come to the conference table to achieve an early settlement of the conflict.

TALKS WITH UNDERGROUND NAGA LEADERS

*614. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN :

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the broad details of the talks held with the underground Naga Leaders on the 10th and 11th August, 1966 and whether the talks would be continued in future; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The Minister of State has already made a statement on 18th August in Rajya Sabha on the