

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 12.17 crores according to latest estimates.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know, Sir, what is holding up this agreement?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Nothing is holding up the agreement. They are going into the matter. There are the project reports. Only procedural difficulties are there.

92. [The questioner (Shri Sita-Ram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 809—12 infra]

REPRESENTATION FOR THE EXEMPTION OF 'THALI' FROM THE GOLD CONTROL ORDER

*93. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations for the exemption of the 'thali' or "tirumangalyam from the provisions of the Gold Control Order; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no religious or sacramental requirement that a 'thali' or 'tirumangalyam' should be in 22-carat gold. No relaxation of the rules prohibiting the making, manufacture or preparation of gold ornaments having a purity exceeding 14-carat has been made or is contemplated.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the Minister has said just now that there is no religious sanctity attached to the 'tirumangalyam' being made out of

pure gold. Has Government taken the opinion of religious leaders like Sankaracharya?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That is not necessary; that is absolutely not necessary.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has any proposal been received by Government that at least as far as the 'tirumangalyam' is concerned, where a little amount of gold is being used, Government may introduce a permit system and issue gold just as they issue permits for motor cars and scooters?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The two are not comparable.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know from the Government whether it is not a fact that there has been a custom which has acquired some sort of religious sanctity that the 'tirumangalyam' should be in pure gold?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The sanctity which has been acquired by this custom of using gold for various purposes in this country has brought in many uneconomic results and loss to the country. Only in order to destroy that custom this step is being taken.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know, Sir, the proportion of this 14-carat gold?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is not clear.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know, Sir, the proportionate content of gold in this 14-carat gold?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It will be about 57 or 58 per cent. gold.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: As the 'tirumangalyam' is considered to be a sacred ornament, may I know, Sir, from the Government, if the 'tirumangalyam' is allowed to be

manufactured in pure gold, how much quantity would be required for this purpose?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is not the question of quantity that may be required for this, but then it is difficult to specify one item for which pure gold will be allowed and not allowed for others. It will leave a loophole through which elephants can come in.

STUDY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME IN ENGLAND

***94. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Directors of the Contributory Health Service Scheme has been sent to England to study National Health Scheme there;

(b) if so, what would be the duration of his study in England; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of his study?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that one Dr. Mishra has been sent to England to study the National Health Scheme there?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Yes, Sir, it is true; he is an Assistant Director-General under the Contributory Health Service Scheme.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether this particular gentleman is on probation and was selected by the U.P.S.C. after waiving the advertised qualifications?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Yes, Sir, he was selected by the U.P.S.C. There

was an invitation from the W.H.O., who wanted us to depute an officer to study hospital administration, social medicine, statistics, psychology, sociology, etc. etc., and we selected this officer.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, why this particular officer was selected when better, highly qualified and permanent officials were available?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Yes, Sir, it was considered by all concerned in the Selection Committee that he was the most competent officer for the job for which one was to be selected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the kind of training for which he was proceeding.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND

***95. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who contributed more than Rs. 1 lakh each to the National Defence Fund upto the end of January, 1963 and

(b) the number of companies which contributed more than Rs. 1 lakh each?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Details of individual subscriptions are available only at the State Headquarters. Names of individuals who have contributed Rs. 1000 or above and whose contributions have been received at Delhi have already been released to the press.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The learned Minister has not replied to my question. My question wanted information as to the number of companies and persons who have each paid more than Rs. 1 lakh, and he has mentioned about people who have paid more than Rs. 1,000.