

decision has been arrived at about the next session of the Asian-African Conference. Neither the date nor the venue has been fixed.

(c) There is no permanent committee.

**BETTERMENT LEVY AND WATER TAXES
CONSEQUENT ON OPENING OF DURGAPUR
BARRAGE**

61 SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether any betterment levy and water taxes are being collected for supply of Damodar Valley Corporation water after the Durgapur barrage has been opened?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. HATHI): Betterment levy and water rates will not be collected by the Government of West Bengal during this year since that Government will not be utilizing the D.V.C. water this season.

INTERNATIONAL TEA AGREEMENT

62 SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any initiative has been taken by the International Tea Committee for a fresh international agreement?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): Yes, Sir.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RUBBER
GROWERS**

63 SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given in the House to my Unstarred Question No. 260 on the 12th September 1955 and state the extent of financial assistance proposed to be given to rubber growers in India next year?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-

MACHARI): A sum of Rs. 11,30,000 has been provided for this purpose in the Budget Estimates of the Rubber Board for 1956-57.

**PETITIONS ON THE HINDU
SUCCESSION BILL, 1954**

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House that nine petitions relating to the Hindu Succession Bill, 1954, pending before this House have been received by me.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA (Uttar Pradesh): Are they being circulated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have been referred to the Petitions Committee. That is the usual procedure. Mr. Prasad Rao.

**THE HINDU SUCCESSION BILL,
1954—continued.**

Clause 6—Devolution of interest in coparcenary property.

SHRI N. D. M. PARASADARAO (Andhra): Sir, I was dealing previously with equality of sexes. Our Constitution has guaranteed equality between sexes. Article 15 of our Constitution says that no discrimination will be made only on grounds of sex. But in our life we see that still this discrimination is going on, equality recognised by law is not the equality in life. Therefore, we have to make that equality real which is to be exercised by the woman.

Sir, unless women are drawn into the field of economic production this equality cannot be there. Unless they are rescued from their household drudgery we cannot establish this equality between sexes. Therefore, the first step to be taken is giving them equal opportunities not only in jobs but also in succession to property. Sir, the several women that we find in leading positions today are a very very small fragment, a micro-