

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Have experiments been made to find out whether this is a good grade coal or coal of inferior variety?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Detailed drilling and analysis have not yet taken place.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

*628. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the All-India Council for Technical Education made at its ninth meeting; and

(b) if so, what is it; and by what time the same will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, Annexure No. 119.]

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Against item 4 it is said that the primary responsibility should be that of the Labour Ministry. May I know whether the Labour Ministry has undertaken this responsibility?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: That was the recommendation made by the All India Council for Technical Education. We have requested the Labour Ministry to consult the Technical Division of the Education Ministry whenever the former wishes to plan courses for the technical schools and I expect that consultations will take place.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether the Post-graduate Development Committee has been able to prepare a scheme for the refresher courses by now?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: What is the item to which the hon. Member is referring?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Item No. 5.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: In regard to this item, the position is like this. The All India Council for Technical Education has been entrusted with the task of suggesting subjects in which the refresher courses should be organised and also to recommend the institutions which should be selected for this purpose. The recommendations of the Council are awaited.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: When was this entrusted to the Council?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: This recommendation was made at the last meeting of the All India¹ Council for Technical Education to which the hon. Member has referred. The exact date on which this was referred to the Post-graduate Development Committee is not known.

EXPERIMENTAL NATIONAL CALENDAR

*629. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) when the Experimental National Calendar for India for the five years from 1954-55 to 1958-59 finalised by the Calendar Reforms Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and their report thereon, are going to be published; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to give this Calendar wide publicity for eliciting general public opinion about it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) and (b). The Experimental Calendar and the report submitted by the Calendar Reforms Committee have been printed and action is being taken to circulate them widely to State Governments, organisations and individuals interested in the subject for eliciting their views.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: When are they going to be circulated?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The report has been printed only just now. We have received some advance copies. As soon as more copies are received, they will be circulated.

PENSIONS OF INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE LATE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

*630. MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the currency in which the pension of retired Indian officers of the late Indian Medical Service is fixed;

(b) if it is fixed in sterling, what is the rate at which it is converted into rupees in the case of an Indian officer who has a home in India and is permanently resident in India; and

(c) whether there is any time limit for stay abroad if such an officer goes outside India, after which the rate of conversion is changed even if he still maintains his permanent residence in India; if so, what rates apply after the expiry of such time limit and why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) I

(a) The pension of former King's Commissioned Indian officers of the late Indian Medical Service is fixed in sterling and that of the Indian Commissioned Officers in rupees.

(b) Under the rules, sterling pensions drawn in India are converted into rupees at the official rate of exchange. However, officers who were of Indian domicile on the 1st February 1921 and were either in service on that date or were already pensioners are eligible to convert their sterling pensions at the rate of Is. 4d. to the rupee so long as they are in India and continue to have their permanent residence in this country.

<c> Under the existing procedure, the rate of conversion is changed from Is. 4d. to the rupee to the official rate of exchange as soon as the continuity of the pensioner's stay in India is broken by a period of absence exceeding 8 months.

MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: Is it a fact that the rate of pension for Indian officers changes from time to time?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: For those who are drawing sterling pensions, depending on the exchange, it does.

MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: I understood that the rate of exchange for permanent residents was Is. 4d. to a rupee.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: That is for those who were on service on the 1st February 1921 or were drawing pensions on that date.

MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: This rate of pension was fixed some time ago, about 1909. If India had been a free country, would not the pensions have been fixed in rupees for all officers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a hypothetical question.

MAJ.-GENERAL S. S. SOKHEY: It is of great significance, Sir.

REINSURANCE CORPORATION FOR FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE

*631. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a reinsurance corporation for fire and general insurance; and

(b) if so, what are the proposed plans regarding the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) ;

(a) and (b). The matter is