

FLEXIBLE STONES

579. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been made regarding the 'flexible stones' found in Mohindragarh District (Patiala and East Punjab States Union);

(b) if so, what is the result of the enquiry; and

(c) what other attributes this stone possesses?

THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is attached.

STATEMENT

An officer of the Geological Survey of India was deputed in field-season 1951-52 to collect samples of 'flexible' sandstone known to occur near Kalia Dabri Tehsil, Jind now a part of Mohindragarh district, PEPSU. The flexible sandstone is exposed on the Ridge 1470 of Kalia. The band is about 2 to 3 feet thick and extends for a distance of nearly 15 feet. The outcrop is covered mostly with debris. Flexibility stone was also found to occur in a place near the southern top of the Ridge 1260. The flexibility of the sandstone of this latter locality is not so well marked. There have been various theories about its constituents and the causes of its flexibility. The generally accepted view appears to be that the quartz aggregates in the mass are held together in a sort of felspathic paste which allows for a certain amount of play. The stone has no special importance for any particular industry, but is known to be used, like other sandstones, as a building stone.

MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE

580. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up a Mountaineering Institute at

Darjeeling or at any other place in India; and

(b) if so, when it will be set up; and what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (DR. K. N. KATJU) : (a) and (b). A mountaineering institute has already been established at Darjeeling. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on the 4th November 1954. The Prime Minister is the President of the Institute and is Chairman of its Executive Council, which includes non-officials and representatives of the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal. The object of the Institute is to encourage and promote mountaineering among the youth of India and to organize courses of training. The courses are conducted by trained personnel. The expenditure will be borne out of contributions from the Central Government, the Government of West Bengal and other donors.

The first course was run from the 4th November to 10th December 1954. The second course commenced on the 14th March 1955

GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KHARAGPUR

581. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) who are the members of the Governing Body of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur;

(b) who is the head of the Institute; and

(c) how he was selected?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta.