

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Is the Government now ready to change this Rs. 32 to a bigger figure on the basis of the existing daily travelling allowance of the staff?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a different matter.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: It follows, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is about the ex-S.I. employees. You are talking about the general question.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: I was talking about the ex-S.I. Railway staff.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: The Minister says that they are being given the option to choose one or the other. As I understand it, the Ministry has not so far taken any decision of that kind or at least the employees have not been informed of their decision so far. The employees still persist that they should be given Rs. 2-4-0 daily allowance.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can write to them on the strength of the reply here.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: That is no question.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: They demand that they should be given this daily allowance instead of this consolidated amount. Why is the Ministry giving this discriminatory treatment as between one section and another?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There was no discrimination. As I said, they were given the option and the majority of them opted for this consolidated amount. Now, they have been given the option again, and it is for them to choose.

*489. [For answer vide cols. 3118-3119 infra.]

*490. [For answer vide cols. 3119-3120 infra.]

*491. LFor answer vide cols. 3120-3122 mira.]

SCHEME FOR CINCHONA CULTIVATION

*492. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital invested by Government up-to-date on the scheme for cinchona cultivation;

(b) the location of the gardens where the cinchona is cultivated;

(c) the year in which the scheme for the cinchona cultivation was started;

(d) whether annual additions to the capital outlay are intended to raise the average cultivation under cinchona; and

(e) the annual surplus or deficit shown by the cinchona cultivation and by the sale of its products in the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR) : (a) The total expenditure incurred by the Central Government on the scheme of cinchona cultivation by the short-term method up to 1953-54 is about Rs. 99 lakhs.

fb) The cinchona plantations under the scheme are located in the Nilgiris and Anamallais in Madras.

(c.) The scheme was started in 1943-44.

fd) Annual additions to the capital outlay are intended to ensure the proper maintenance of the cinchona plantations under the scheme.

(e) The expenditure incurred on the scheme during the years 1951-52 to 1953-54 are as below: —

1951-52	...	Rs. 3,03,088
1952-53	..	Rs. 3,24,311
1953-54	..	Rs. 2,21,250.

As against the above expenditure, no recoveries were effected during the years in question, as there was no

sale of cinchona bark harvested or of quinine salts produced under the scheme.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the reason for the non-production of quinine products during these years?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I did not say that there was no production of quinine. Quinine is produced. Under the new scheme there was a great deal of cinchona bark harvested but quinine salts were not produced.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Trees require some time to grow, Mr. Bhanj Deo.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know which are the ones, out of the 38 species of cinchona plants, that have been patronised by the Health Ministry for cultivation in this country?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Perhaps the hon. Member may know that this scheme was brought in during the war because of the stoppage of imports of quinine from abroad.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know, out of the 38 species of cinchona plants, which of them have been patronised by the Health Ministry.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I was going to say that this new scheme had not really proved a success, and that it was the old normal plantations that existed both in Bengal and Madras that have been and are patronised by the Government of India which will give us the requisite amount of production.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether the figures given by the hon. Minister are published figures?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: They are the authentic figures which are in the possession of my Ministry.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Is any Totaquina, apart from quinine, manufactured in India from the cinchona plants?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I am afraid I don't know.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: In the course of the reply the hon. Minister mentioned about a garden somewhere in Anamallais. Is that owned by the Government or by any private owner?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The cinchona plantations belong entirely to the Government. They are in Bengal, Madras and now there is cinchona cultivation in Assam also.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What by-products are made from cinchona?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We only produce the pure quinine because now-a-days on the market, as the hon. Member must know, there is so much synthetic quinine to be had which people prefer.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: Will the Minister let me know if there is any scheme to keep a stock of quinine for any critical period because in the last war quinine was sold at Rs. 200 per lb. in those days?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We have plans. Naturally we stock the quinine here and we hope that in case of emergency we shall be able to satisfy our needs.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Is it not the case that in spite of all these schemes quinine is still being imported into this country?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a different question.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether any quinine is imported from outside?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have ruled out that question.