

INDIAN MILITARY MISSION IN NEPAL

192. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Indian Military Mission stationed at Kath-mandu (Nepal);

(b) if so, what is the strength of this Mission;

(c) who pays for the maintenance of this Mission; and

(d) the circumstances under which the Mission was sent there?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) The strength of the Mission is 197 including officers.

(c) Pay and compensatory allowance are borne by the Government of India, while expenditure on accommodation and transport is borne by the Nepal Government.

(d) The Mission was sent to Nepal in April 1952 at the request of the Government of Nepal for the training and re-organisation of the Nepalese Army.

BUN DING FOR INDIA SUPPLY MISSION AT WASHINGTON

193. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a building is under construction in Washington to house the India Supply Mission and the Audit Office; and

(b) what is the rent at present being paid for housing these offices?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 1,33,000 per year.

194. [Postponed to 22nd December 1953.]

VERIFICATION OF STOCK OF MATERIALS

195. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the-Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closing stock of materials on hand as on 31st March 1952 and 31st March 1953 under the-various State Trading Schemes of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been verified; and

(b) if so, what was their value on> those dates?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE: (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Yes, except stocks of paper on 31st March 1953. They were not physically verified in view of proposals for their being taken over by the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 102.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI THAKUR DAS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform: the hon. Members that the following, letter has been received from Shri Thakur Das:

"Though I am much improved in my health, still I am unable to take-the long journey and attend this session. I, therefore, request you to kindly grant me leave of absence for the whole of this session."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Thakur Das for remaining absent from-all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.