

the post-certificate courses. It is not possible to work out average figures for a very new institution.

**FOREST PRODUCTS OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

22. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the forest products of (i) the Andaman Islands; and (ii) the Nicobar Islands;

(b) which of these products are exported from these islands to (i) India; and (ii) other places; and

(c) what measures Government are taking to enhance the forest wealth of these islands?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 303 RELATING TO AYURVEDIC SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.**

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): One of the supplementary questions that arose out of starred question No. 303, regarding the Ayurvedic system of medicine, answered on the 14th September 1953, was by Shri B. P. Agarwal who asked: "The question is that the Planning Commission recommended that there should be Central registration and this was also the recommendation of the Chopra Committee. I want to know whether any action has been taken on those recommendations."

The reply given was, "A Central Register is being drawn up". This was not quite correct. The position is that although the Government of India agreed in principle that All-India legislation should be enacted for the registration of people practising Ayurvedic

and Unani and other systems of medicine for a specified number of years, no legislation has been enacted so far. In the absence of Central legislation the question of Central registration of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners does not arise. No Central Register is, therefore, being prepared

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO (1) SHRI J. M. KUMARAPPA, (2) SHRI R. B. RAUT AND (3) SHRI N. BHATT.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri J. M. Kumarappa:

"As you are aware, I had a sudden attack of high blood-pressure during the last session of the Council. After a treatment of 11 days in the Willingdon Nursing Home I was taken back to Bombay. Since my return home I have been making slow but steady progress.

My doctors advise that in the present state of my health I should not resume my normal activities till after the end of this year (1953). I shall, therefore, be unable to attend the ensuing November to December session of the Council of States. Will you be so kind as to obtain leave of the House for my absence during that period."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri J. M. Kumarappa 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.

I have to inform the hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri R. B. Raut:

"As I am proceeding to Vienna to attend the World Conference of Agricultural and Forestry Workers, I may be allowed leave of absence for the forthcoming session of the Council of States."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri R. B. Raut 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.

I have to inform the hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri Nanabhai Bhatt:

"As I have been pre-occupied with certain fundamental problems of my new village University—Lok Bharati, I shall not be able to attend this session of the Council.

I request, therefore, our worthy Chairman and Members of the Council to grant me leave of absence and oblige."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri Nanabhai Bhatt 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.

#### PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

##### MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS NOTIFICATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Communications Notification No. 10-A/34-50, dated the 6th September, 1952, together with an explanatory note, under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934. [Placed in Library, see No. S-151/53.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We take up further consideration of the Employees Provident Funds Act.

#### DISCUSSION RE. DISALLOWANCE OF SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

SHRI V. S. SARWATE (Madhya Bharat): Sir, before that begins, may I put one matter before you? During the last session I put a short notice question enquiring whether the contemplated strike and lock-out at Indore could be prevented. The question was disallowed on the ground that the Minister did not agree. I wish to point out that in the Rules there is no doubt provision that if the Minister concerned does not agree, a short notice question should not be allowed, but as you know, Sir, this only gives a discretion to the Minister and generally it is common ground that discretion is always governed by reasonable grounds. It is to be used on reasonable grounds. In this particular case there seem to have been no reasonable grounds because there was sufficient time for the Minister to make enquiries. So I wish to know whether you, Sir, would not interfere in such cases and use your good offices to persuade the Minister to agree in such cases where there are about 7,000 people whose interests are affected and enquiries could have been made very easily and necessary steps could have been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We always do it, Mr. Sarwate. Even when the Minister says that it is not possible for him to answer, we try to persuade him to reconsider. That is the line we adopt with regard to these matters. I don't disallow questions automatically.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Thank you. Do the Ministers give reasons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They do give reasons sometimes.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: May I know.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell you now. Shri Abid Ali.

#### THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953—continued.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Sir, yes-