

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have already answered that question.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether these teachers are Indians or foreigners?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Both.

RATE OF EXCHANGE

*104. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of exchange agreed upon between the Indian and the Nepalese rupee ; and

(b) the period during which such rate is to be in force ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) : (a) There is no agreed rate between the Indian rupee and the Nepalese rupee but the Government of Nepal are understood to have made arrangements recently for the supply of Indian currency at the rate of 100 Indian rupees to 128 Nepalese rupees to traders wishing to import certain specified essential goods from India.

(b) No time limit has been fixed.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is the Indian rupee current in Nepal ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : It is current in certain parts of Nepal.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : There are the trade channels that are being now made between Nepal and India. Has the Government any responsibility for fixing the exchange rate ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : No. It is the Nepalese Government's responsibility.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the hon. Minister inform us whether the Government of India placed safeguards to protect the interests of the Indian merchants, and taken steps to see that a fair rate of exchange is got for the Indian rupee ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : It has been done. Rs. 128 Nepalese for Rs. 100 Indian. I think it is a fair rate.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Since when is this rate of exchange in force ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : 19th September 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 105†. The Member is not present.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : I put the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Which question ?

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : Question No. 105, standing in the name of Shri Gopinath Singh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you been authorised ?

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : Yes, Sir. I am authorised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But where is the letter ? You must give me his letter of authorisation.

Question No. 106. Shri Deogirikar.

PUBLIC RECEPTIONS

*106. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether military officers are under their service rules allowed to accept public receptions ;

(b) if so, whether there is any restriction on their speeches while replying to the welcome addresses ; and

(c) whether any permission from superior authority is required to be taken before accepting such receptions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) to (c). There are no specific rules for military officers as such, but generally rules for the civil officers have been

†For answer to Question No. 105 *vide* column 38 *infra*.

expected to be followed in the case of military officers as well. The question as to whether a separate set of rules should not be specifically framed for the military officers is under consideration.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether the Commander-in-Chief is regarded one of the military officers ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Yes, Sir. He is the executive head of our Army.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Are Government aware that recently a public reception was given at a meeting in Poona to the Commander-in-Chief where all sorts of undesirable speeches were delivered ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Delivered by whom ?

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : By those who gave him the reception.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I am not aware.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What officials are exempted from the category of military officers along with the Commander-in-Chief ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, there is no exemption. I have said there are no elaborate rules so far. There are rules for civil officers, and it has been expected of our military officers since we acquired independent status, that they will generally follow the Government Servant's Conduct Rules. The Commander-in-Chief in the olden days was also the Defence Member and therefore dealt with the political side of defence also. No new rules have been framed. I have said that the Government is considering the desirability of framing these rules.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : How long will it take Government to frame the rules ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It will be done as early as possible.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to see that there should be closer contact and co-operation between the civil population and the military officers ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : That is always desirable.

SHRI R. AGNIBHOJ : Will Government enquire as to what speeches and by whom, were made at Poona at the reception to the Commander-in-Chief ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I don't think it is necessary to go into past history.

SHRI R. AGNIBHOJ : It is necessary, Sir.

PROF. G. RANGA : Sir, here two definite questions were put, one followed by the other ; and it is only reasonable for the House to expect the hon. Minister to take the responsibility to enquire as regards the speeches that were made at Poona, whether they were desirable or not. The House cannot countenance the kind of answer that the hon. Minister has now given.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, I have said the whole matter is being looked into ; but it is no use going into the details of the case.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : But, Sir.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is being looked into. Next question.

REPAYMENT OF DEBTS

*107. SHRI B. C. GHOSH : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of debts owed by Pakistan to India and the dates of maturity and mode of payment of each of those debts ;

(b) whether Pakistan Government has paid the debts or the interest on debts which have already fallen due for payment ; and