

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know from the hon. Minister the number of officers who draw salaries above Rs. 500, and those who draw between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I have no figures at this stage.

SHRI B. GUPTA : With regard to question (a) may I know what is the reaction of the Government of India ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I cannot state the reaction until the Government have come to a decision.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How long will the Government of India take to come to a decision ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : We will take a decision as early as possible, because the Government of Madras propose to introduce this cut from the 1st January, 1953.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Not even a reaction yet ?

#### INDIAN NAVY BAND

\*164. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the Indian Navy Band can be obtained for use by the public ? If so, on what terms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : The Band Committee, of which the Commodore-in-Charge, Bombay, is the President, has discretion to allow the Band to accept private engagements or to play at entertainments given by private individuals or public bodies such as Municipalities, sports clubs, etc. The Band, however, is in no circumstances, whether in or out of uniform permitted to take part in processions, communal or otherwise, religious ceremonies and political demonstrations.

When requests to perform for a fee are entertained, the terms accepted are not less than those which would, in similar circumstances, be offered to civilian bands. The fees received are used largely for the Band's maintenance.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Is the Government aware that the Navy Band was played in front of the Metro Theatre in Bombay to celebrate the premiere of the picture "Quo Vadis" ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : That is a fact.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Was the Band requisitioned by the proprietors of the theatre or by the U. S. Embassy here ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know how the U. S. Embassy is concerned in this matter. The proprietors of the theatre invited our Military and Naval officers to this show and asked them to lend the services of the Band for their entertainment. The Band played in the interval and before the show.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister enquire whether the American Embassy had anything to do with this ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have no knowledge. I do not think they had anything to do with it.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does not the Government feel that it is below the dignity of the State to allow the Indian Navy Band to play in front of theatres to celebrate such premieres ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have already said that the show was witnessed by officers of the Armed Forces and the Band was played for their entertainment. As a matter of fact, this is not a Government Band. All the equipment of the Band is purchased from subscriptions, raised by the ratings and officers. There is a Band Committee. There are certain prescribed rules and regulations. The Band is not allowed to take part in

processions, political demonstrations, religious ceremonies, etc. Subject to that disciplinary control, it is free to play anywhere at the discretion of the Band Committee.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Was this premiere a public show or only meant for the officers in our Armed Forces ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It was largely attended by our officers.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : It was a public show then.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know the details of this show but according to my information, it was attended by a very large number of officers who were invited to witness it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Was it an American picture which was shown there on that day ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I am not aware of the nationality of that picture.

#### SYNTHETIC MICA

\*165. SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in the United States and in France factories have been put up for the manufacture of synthetic mica as a substitute for mica, the raw material for which is scrap mica, which is exported from India in large quantities ;

(b) whether Government are aware that one of the reasons for the slump in mica industry is the manufacture of this synthetic mica ; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the export of scrap mica, if not, why not ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) By "synthetic mica" is meant mica produced from its consti-

tuents or from other substances. Such mica has not yet been produced though it is claimed that certain laboratories in U. S. A. have produced mica crystals of comparatively small sizes.

(b) It is understood that the present fall in the demand for mica is due to lack of demand of certain categories of splittings in consequence of the cessation of purchase under the stock piling programme of the U. S. A.

(c) A proposal to ban the export of scrap mica for a period of two or three years, as an experimental measure, is under consideration.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is it not a fact Sir, that, the mica industry depends on exports for its existence as there is no home consumption ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is it not a fact, that the Central Mica Advisory Committee which consists of the States, the Centre and the industry has recommended the total ban on export of scrap mica from India in their meetings held at Jaipur, Madras and Calcutta ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The recommendation of the Mica Advisory Committee has been that as an experimental measure, exports of scrap mica should be banned for some time.

SHRI R. G. AGARWALA : Is the hon. Minister aware that the Mica Association of Bihar has recommended its immediate stoppage ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I am not aware of that.

SHRI O. SOBHANI : Has the Government invited any experts to advise it on the utilisation of mica in our own country ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : We have initiated recently a Mica Research