

Advisory Committee under the auspices of our Glass and Ceramics Research Institute of Calcutta.

SHRI BARKATULLAH KHAN : May I know how long the Government would take to take a decision on the banning of the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The proposal is under consideration in the Commerce and Industry Ministry. As soon as they come to a decision, the Government will give effect to it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has the Government received any representation from the mica traders of Gudur in Nellore District of Madras State against the banning of the export of scrap mica ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Yes, there has been some difference between the various producers on the question of the export of scrap mica.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has the pressure on the Government to ban the export of scrap mica come from the big merchants ? Is it aware that it affects the small merchants ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : No, in the interest of the country as a whole, we have before us no such considerations of whether representations come from big companies or small companies.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is not this proposal to ban the export of scrap mica going to affect the small mica traders in Nellore District ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : No, and as a matter of fact, the question of banning the export of mica in general just now is not of great importance because there is already a big fall in the export of mica because people outside do not need it just now.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, I wanted to ask if these experiments for the manufacture of synthetic mica from natural mica were successful. Would the hon. Minister consider the possibility of producing synthetic rice from natural rice ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Prof. N. G. Ranga ; he is not here.

(For answer to Question No. 166, vide column 1181 *supra*.)

ALLOWANCES TO OFFICERS

*167. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of travelling, halting and other allowances, if any paid to officials going abroad on duty ;

(b) who is the authority for checking and passing such expenditure ;

(c) whether any officers have drawn any such allowances in excess ; and if so, what are their numbers and what action has been taken in each case ; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred annually during the last five years on account of travelling, halting and other allowances paid to the officers sent abroad on duty ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) :

(a) (i) *Travelling allowance*.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ fares in respect of journey by rail to the port of embarkation in India, and single sea or air fare to the place of destination and back.

(ii) *Halting allowance*.—A statement embodying the rates of daily allowance sanctioned for the various places abroad is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 40.]

(b) The authority responsible for the disbursement of the allowances is the Chief Accounts Officer of the Indian Legation abroad where they are drawn, and the authority for the audit is the Audit Officer within whose jurisdiction the officer is employed in India.

(c) No information is available regarding overpayments, if any, made by disbursing authorities abroad, but, as all disbursements made abroad are audited by the Audit Officer concerned in India, it may be assumed that, if

there has been any overpayment necessary action is invariably taken by the Audit Officer concerned for its recovery. Details of such recovery, if any has been found necessary, are not also available.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 41.]

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Sir, may I know the dates from which these halting allowances were brought into force ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I think at least I know it from 1947-48 and thereafter.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Is there no change made since 1947-48 ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Some change has been made, Sir.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : In what respects ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : In the matter of halting allowances, the existing practice is to follow the rates prescribed by the U. K.—officers of corresponding status, except in certain cases where we follow our own rates. Then, after our Finance Secretary's visit abroad, he has made certain changes and Government has accepted them. With the acceptance of those rates, the rates allowed in the countries other than U. K., U. S. A., Canada, Ceylon and Pakistan are also to be replaced by free bed and breakfast *plus* cash allowance.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Am I to understand that we are following the rates which apply to U. K. officers ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Yes. I have stated that in the U. K., U. S. A., Canada, Paris, Ceylon and Pakistan, we follow those rates and those rates consist of free accommodation *plus* cash allowance or free accommodation *plus* food and cash allowance.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Where free accommodation or accommodation and food is given, is a ceiling also provided in respect of them ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I have not got details of that. After the Finance Secretary has visited all those places abroad, he has just made certain recommendations and that principle has been accepted.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Sir, on a point of order. I think that information is very necessary. Why I say this, I will explain. If you take U. K., it is stated "23 sh. 6 d. (all inclusive) per day *or* bed and breakfast to be arranged by the H. C. in London *plus* 15 sh. per day." Now, if no ceiling is placed on expenditure on free accommodation and food, then this free accommodation may cost 35 to 40 sh. and in addition, there will be 15 sh. per day. That is, it will be 40 sh. *plus* 15 sh. or 55 sh., whereas, all told, there is a ceiling of 23 sh. 6 d., if no free bed and breakfast is arranged. That is why I asked for the information as to whether any ceiling is prescribed when free accommodation and food is provided for the officers.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Sir, I require notice for it.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know whether any cases have come to the notice of the Government of officers claiming excess allowance and the Government sanctioning it ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I do not think so. Sometimes, some *ad hoc* claims are made for entertaining purposes. Whenever our officers are entertained by the countries they are in, in return our officers have to entertain them, but about that they have to give the actual expenditure incurred.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ghose's point seems to be that if you are giving them bed and breakfast and actual expenditure on food, they may go up to 55 sh., if especially they take to costly places like the Claridge or the Dorchester, as they do sometimes. Otherwise, it cannot go beyond 23 sh. 6 d. Has any investigation been made in this matter to bring down our expenditure ?

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : No, Sir ; is there any limit placed ? And, secondly, I would like to know how officers who may stay in such first class hotels like the Grosvenor and the Dorchester can limit the expenditure to 23 sh. 6 d.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : We have made arrangements for free bed and breakfast *plus* a cash allowance. If my hon. friend wants details, I shall furnish him later on. I have not got them with me now.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Are we now to understand that the statement has been amended and that that information has not been given to us ? The rates are given here and the hon. Minister says that it is not the practice now. The practice now is to provide free bed and breakfast *plus* allowances. But that it is not the information given here.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I have stated for the information of the hon. Members that the Finance Secretary has suggested certain things and on principle we have accepted these and so it will come into force later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Secretary has been on tour. He has made certain recommendations and they will be considered and, if accepted, brought into effect later on.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : But we are still guided by the statement made here. But that is not assured by the hon. Minister. That is what I want to bring to the notice of the House.

DISPOSAL OF MILITARY GARMENTS

*168. SHRI B. GUPTA : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain categories of officers and staff of the Indian Army were directed compulsorily to buy particular types of garments from the military stocks ;

(b) whether such garments are a part of the official uniform which the mili-

tary personnel must necessarily use ; and

(c) whether the Army authorities have received any representation, collective or otherwise, for the exemption of the lower grade military personnel from this compulsory purchase ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that in Calcutta, soldiers in certain establishments were asked compulsorily to buy certain goods ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind. Is he referring to military uniform or mufti clothes ? There are two types of dresses ; one is the regular military uniform and the other is the mufti dress.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is the hon. Minister aware of the Press reports about this fact ? Is he aware that with regard to the mufti dress which the soldier ordinarily wears—it is not the uniform—the mufti dress which the soldier is free to buy with his own money, he is compelled to buy it from Government ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : No, Sir. Nowhere in India it is compulsory to buy mufti clothes from the army stocks.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is the Government aware of the Press reports about this matter—that the soldiers are compelled to buy in such depots ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is the Government aware of a report where it is alleged that soldiers were compelled to buy from military stocks ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : No, Sir, I am not aware of any.