

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.

SHRI B. RATH : Are the military stores giving mufti clothes ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Yes. Anybody who likes to purchase from the army stores can do so. I may explain the position here. An allowance is given to the soldiers to purchase mufti clothes initially and they have to maintain and replace it at their own cost. The cost of one set of mufti clothes is given to every soldier who purchases it generally from the army stores because it is cheaper and more convenient.

SHRI B. RATH : Will the hon. Minister tell us what is the value of a set of mufti clothes that is sold in the Government military stores and that of the same set in the ordinary market ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I don't know. A sum of Rs. 16 is given to every soldier. The mufti clothes are generally a pair of trousers and a shirt and these may be purchased with that amount. The allowance was Rs. 10, but with the rise in prices, it has now been raised to Rs. 16.

SHRI B. RATH : When the Minister says it is cheaper in the military stores, what justification has he to make for such a statement ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Because the cloth is obtained by placing large orders. Naturally the middleman's profit is eliminated. We may get it directly from the milis. The middleman's profit which a soldier will have to pay ordinarily in the market is avoided.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Are Government aware that the allowance given for the mufti clothing for the soldiers is not enough for them to replace because of the wear and tear which has to be undergone in Army work ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The mufti clothes are not used when the soldier is on duty. It is his off-time dress. He has to wear a dress of standard colour and pattern, so that he should not look shabby when he goes out. My hon. friend surely does not want that our soldiers should look shabby.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : That is why I put the question whether the Government is aware that the allowance is not enough to dress in particular colours so that they don't look shabby.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : No allowance is given for mufti clothes. A sum of Rs. 16 is given for the initial purchase of one set of clothes only on recruitment. No other allowance is given for maintenance of the mufti clothes. It is made of cheap cloth which everyone can afford and which he is expected to replace at his own cost.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Why is not mufti given *muffat*.

#### EXCAVATION AT SURATGARH

169. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Swedish team led by Dr. Hanna Rydh has started excavation work at Suratgarh in Bikaner;

(b) whether this excavation work is being carried out under the patronage of King Gustav of Sweden ; if so, whether any monetary assistance is being given by the Swedish Government for the work ; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative, what will be the duration of the stay of the Swedish team in India, and how much it will cost ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI D. K. MALAVIYA) : (a) No.

(b) The party has the patronage of His Majesty the King of Sweden. The Government of India have no information whether the Government of Sweden are giving any financial assistance.

(c) The team is expected to stay in India for about four months. Government of India will not have to incur any expenditure.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know what is the site at Suratgarh ?