

policy. It is expected that rationalisation will not be introduced except according to conditions agreed to by the Conference.

**Indian Assistant Commissioner
in Rhodesia and Nyasaland**

*1811. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Raja of Alrajpur who is now Assistant Commissioner for India in the Capital of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was refused haircut in some European barber shop?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Government have no official information but have seen press reports to this effect. In the racial atmosphere prevailing in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, such an incident is however not unusual.

Import of Ammonium Sulphate

*1812. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with the East German Government with regard to the import of ammonium sulphate;

(b) if so, the quantity to be imported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). The State Trading Corporation has entered into a contract with an East German Export organization for the import of 15,000 tons of ammonium sulphate on f.o.b. terms. Payment will be made in rupees. Freight will be arranged by the State Trading Corporation. The exact amount of foreign exchange expenditure that might have to be incurred is not yet known.

Pondicherry

*1813. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether externment order against persons residing in Pondicherry has been revoked; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to cancel such orders?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):
(a) No.

(b) Short of amending the relevant law the Pondicherry Administration cannot take any steps to cancel the externment orders. No measure to amend the law is under consideration.

**Collection of Betterment Levy
in Kerala**

*1814. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have rejected the recommendation of the National Development Council for collection of betterment levy in advance while projects are under execution; and

(b) if so, what reasons they have given for rejecting that recommendation?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). According to the Travancore-Cochin Irrigation Act, 1956 (No. VII of 1956) and the Madras Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution) Act, 1955 (Act No. III of 1955) which applies to the Malabar area now in Kerala, the payment of Betterment levy becomes due two years after the provision of irrigation facilities in Travancore-Cochin area and two years after the date of completion of the projects in the Malabar area respectively. Any amount accepted by the Government from any person are to be credited towards betterment levy. The collection of betterment levy in advance