

number remaining uncovered is quite large.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there are any managements willing to accept the enhanced rate of contribution and if so, what is the Government's policy in this matter?

Shri Nanda: We consulted the employers' representatives. They are very reluctant to accept the higher rate.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what would be the extra amount which will be contributed to the provident fund trust if 6.25 per cent. is increased to 8.33 per cent. in such of those industries which are covered by the Act?

Shri Nanda: It is a matter of simple arithmetic. The proportion will have to be added. I will give the exact figures to the hon. Member after referring to the statistics.

Shri Tangamani: What will be the contribution? If that amount comes to the provident fund trust, that amount can also be used for the Second Plan.

Shri Nanda: I accept that suggestion. It will be a useful addition to the resources.

Shri Anthony Pillai: May I know whether all the industries are incapable of paying this extra amount or is it that only some are not capable of paying this amount?

Shri Nanda: That is a very relevant consideration.

Radio-activity

*1435. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the highest level of radio-activity reported so far in the country?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The highest level of radio-activity was observed at Delhi in April, 1957. This

was 18.7 micro curies per cubic metre of air. This is well below the maximum permissible limit.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What arrangements exist in the country for recording this radio activity? Are any efforts being made to streamline and bring them up-to-date?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There are sampling stations at Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Nagpur and Ootacamund and Srinagar. Samples of dust and rain water from these areas are given to the air monitoring division for testing.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if the gratitude of this country has been conveyed to the Government of the USSR for suspension of the nuclear tests, particularly in view of a resolution passed by this House?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Radio activity does not come out of nothing.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member asked about the highest level; he is now going to the lowest level.

Shri Anthony Pillai: May I know whether it has been observed that radio activity has increased after the nuclear explosion in the USSR?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I do not know whether it has increased or decreased.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether as a result of the suspension of nuclear tests by the USSR, the radio activity in this country is likely to go down very much?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? Many things may be asked but it does not arise out of this question.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: We attribute radio activity to certain reasons. We asked: why this highest

radio activity was recorded in Delhi on a particular date? It was because of nuclear tests held in a particular country.

Mr. Speaker: How does the absence of nuclear tests affect or is going to affect the highest level already reached? Next question.

Sulpha Drugs

*1496. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the import of sulpha drugs;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to start producing sulpha drugs in India; and

(c) if so, where?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The required information is as follows:—

	Value of Imports (Rs. in '000')
1954-55	1,00,96
1955-56	99,88
1956-57 (Apr.-Dec.)	90,04
1957 (Jan.-Sept.)	62,44

(b) and (c). The proposal to establish plants for the manufacture of basic drugs including sulpha drugs is under consideration.

Shri Ghosal: May I know if the West Bengal Government wanted permission from the Central Government to produce some sulpha drugs and that after refusing permission to them, the Central Government allowed some private firms in Bombay to produce the same?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The West Bengal Government did not specifically sponsor a project for sulpha drugs. In the Durgapur coke oven plant, they wanted to put up a chemical plant which will make some of the drugs. But as far as the Government

policy is concerned, for the present, we are intending to put up a series of plants or a major unit for all the drugs like anti-biotics, sulpha drugs, vitamins, synthetic drugs, hormones, etc., in the public sector. Till such time as that policy is completely finalised, we have not given any new major licences in the private sector. But there are a few private firms already making some of these drugs and some legitimate expansions and some new capacities in those cases have been permitted.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Some years ago, the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee recommended that in order to enhance the production of essential drugs including sulpha drugs, there should be a greater production of what are called coal tar chemicals. If the private industry does not come and enter the field, I want to know whether the State is entering the field for the manufacture of these chemicals and if so, to what extent?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the Government is concerned, in all the national steel plants where there is a coke oven plant and also in the fertiliser plants, it is our intention to have a complete coal tar distillation plant wherever feasible which will meet all the requirements of the country in the coal tar chemicals.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether it is a fact that negotiations are going on with the Government of U.S.S.R. for the erection of a drug plant in India; and, if so, whether any decision has been taken so far?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have informed this hon. House several times, we have been discussing these projects with the Soviet experts and a formal request from us has gone. If our request is accepted, there will be possibility of our establishing some basic drug plants with Soviet collaboration.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: In view of the fact that anti-biotics are slowly replacing sulpha drugs, may I