

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). The experiments are in the preliminary stages. The first stage of the process, namely preparation of B-ionone from lemon grass oil on a laboratory scale is nearing completion.

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

*389. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide more facilities for sale of National Savings Certificates in rural areas;

(b) whether Government propose to authorise Branch Postmasters of Extra Departmental Post Offices and village Panchayats and other agencies to sell National Savings Certificates; and

(c) whether any All-India Conference of Regional National Savings Officers was held at Gwalior in the last week of October, 1954 for deciding such questions?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, the Government is rather eager in this matter;

(b) Yes, some schemes for appointment of rural Agents have already been introduced.

(c) Yes.

STATE FINANCE CORPORATION

*391. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has constituted a State Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, what will be the authorised and subscribed capital of this body; and

(c) whether the Board of Management has been constituted and has started functioning?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes Sir. The Bihar Government has established the Bihar State Financial Corporation from the 2nd November, 1954.

(b) The authorised and issued capitals are Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 50 lakhs respectively. The entire issued capital has to be in fully paid up shares.

(c) The Board of Management has not yet been constituted and the Corporation has not started functioning.

INDO-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

325. { **Shri D. C. Sharma,**
Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Egyptian Cultural Agreement has been signed recently; and

(b) if so, the terms thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PURCHASE OF DEFENCE STORES

327. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions from the 15th August, 1947 to the 31st March, 1954 when Officers of the Defence Ministry (including Officers of the Defence Secretariat) were deputed to foreign countries to negotiate purchase of Defence stores or to enter into agreements;

(b) the month and year of each such deputation; and

(c) the nature of work transacted by the said officers in those foreign countries during each visit?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) it would not be in the public interest to divulge this information on the floor of the House.