

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). The rules are being finalised and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha for approval shortly.

With your permission, I would like to add "within the next few days".

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The rules framed according to this Act took eight long years.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I am asking it. At the last meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board, it was recommended that the whole Act should be replaced by a comprehensive Bill. Now, the question of rules is there.

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this question. This relates only to rules.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I submit that this Act was passed in 1948 but the rules were not framed till now. Now, the rules are being framed. In the meantime the Mineral Advisory Board has recommended that the whole Act should be replaced.

Mr. Speaker: I am not concerned with all that. The question as it stands is whether the rules have been framed, etc. He says that they will be laid on the Table in two or three days. How does the rest arise?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what decision has been taken by the Government with regard to the recommendation made by the Mineral Advisory Board at its last meeting held at Bangalore in June, that this whole Act should be replaced?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The amendment of 1948 Act is something different from the rules as a consequence of the 1948 Act. When the 1948 Act was made, certain rules were in vogue as a consequence. Those rules have now been changed and it is these that are going to be placed on the Table of the House within the next few days. With regard to the 1948 Act itself that question came up before the Mineral Advisory Board and it was recommended that the Act should be amended in certain respect. The draft has already been circulated to the State Governments and it is likely to come up before the House soon.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether the rules as framed now by the Government include any rule by which the Government can prevent the exploitation of minerals like semi-precious stones and crysobrynes by private persons or whether such rules will empower the Government to take over the exploitation which the private agencies are doing today?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The rules are bound by a basic policy laid down by

the Government in which if those precious stones have been included then the rules will see to it that they are not exploited by private individuals.

Mr. Speaker: The rules will be here in three days.

Furnished Quarters for Other Ranks

***291. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty**: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the scale of furniture authorised for Other Ranks family quarters are generally not issued in full in Delhi Area; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). The scale of furniture for Other Ranks was recently liberalised, not only in Delhi Area but in other areas also. The scale could not however be implemented as the furniture required according to the scale was not immediately available. Sanction was issued last year for the making and the provision of furniture according to the scale and it is hoped to give effect to the scale as soon as the furniture is ready.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know within what time all the available furniture within the schedule will be ready?

Sardar Majithia: The contract has already been given out and I expect that the furniture should be ready within this year.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it is a fact that the M.E.S. Schedule for the living quarters of the Other Ranks is a very old schedule and the least amenities like electricity in the latrines etc. cannot be given on the ground that they are not included in the M.E.S. Schedule?

Sardar Majithia: This question is regarding furniture. For a question regarding electricity etc. I will require notice. But, as I said, the schedule has been liberalised. The contract has already been out, the contractor is making the furniture and these will be available to the Other Ranks as soon as they are ready.

Anti-Corruption Department Travancore-Cochin

***292. Shri A. K. Gopalan**: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of allegations referred to the anti-Corruption Department of the Travancore-Cochin State Government in which Forest Officers and Contractors are involved;