

in the mica mining area in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh;

- (b) if so, since when; and  
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathil):** (a) Yes.

- (b) Since the 16th January 1960.  
(c) Does not arise.

#### **Central Government Offices in Madras**

\*624. **Shri Balakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to bring all the offices of Central Government at one place in Madras city;  
(b) whether a suitable building is available for all the Offices of Central Government or a new building is to be constructed; and  
(c) what arrangement has been made so far in the matter?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** (a), (b) and (c). There is a proposal to construct an office building in the general pool at Madras to meet the requirements of all the Central Government offices other than those that have their own construction programmes. Plans and estimate for the proposed building are being finalised.

#### **Meeting of Dalai Lama with Prime Minister**

\*625. **Shri Mohammad Elias:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Dalai Lama met him and had discussion with him on the 25th March, 1962; and  
(b) if so, details of the matters discussed?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) Yes.

(b) Subjects discussed related to the rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees and the education of the Tibetan refugee boys and girls of school going age.

#### **W. Bengal Traders' Difficulty re. New Weights**

\*633. { **Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**  
**Dr. Saradish Roy:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that since the introduction of new Weights and Measures the small traders and shopkeepers of West Bengal are facing serious difficulty in procuring the new weights; and  
(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the supply of new weights at reasonable price to the traders and retail shopkeepers in West Bengal?

**The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement on the situation regarding the supply of metric weights in West Bengal and the steps taken to meet the demand for them.

#### **STATEMENT**

There is now no shortage of metric weights in the Calcutta-Howrah area, where they were introduced in October 1958. Most traders in this area have purchased new weights. In the remaining part of the State, the use of metric weights became compulsory on 1st April, 1962. This created an abrupt rise in the demand for new weights. The supply of weights is for the time being insufficient to meet the full demand, and there is a temporary shortage of weights.

Licences have been issued liberally by the State Government to manufacturers and dealers in weights. Manufacturers have been induced to raise production to the limits of their

capacities, and given assistance in procuring scarce raw materials like brass. The shortage of weights is expected to be removed in 3 to 4 months time. In the meantime, the law is being enforced with leniency and no penal action is being taken against the use of old weights in places where new weights are not easily available.

#### Indo-Nepal Agreement on Drinking Water Scheme

\*634. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreements for the development of a drinking water supply scheme in Kathmandu between India and Nepal have been concluded and signed;

(b) if so, the important features of such agreements; and

(c) what will be the financial responsibility of the Government of India in this regard?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Meemon):** (a) An Agreement for the development of drinking water supply in Kathmandu was signed by the representatives of the two Governments at Kathmandu on April 25, 1962.

(b) (i) Collection, conveyance and treatment of water obtained from the Sundarijal tail race;

(ii) Provision of raw water storage reservoir, raw water main, water treatment plant and clear water reservoir;

(iii) Survey of the existing distribution system and replacement of obsolete mains with a view to improve the existing distribution system up to pipes not smaller than 3" in diameter.

(c) The Government of India have undertaken to provide Rs. 79 lakhs for the implementation of the Scheme.

#### Basic Chemicals and Intermediates Plant

\*635. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made by the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., for the establishment of a plant for the manufacture of basic chemicals and Intermediates;

(b) whether plans and estimates have been prepared; and

(c) if so, the total plan out-lay for the project?

**The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir; the site has been chosen and levelling work is proceeding. Layout and foundation plans are being finalised. Enquiries for Inorganic Plants and Utilities have been issued and tenders for some equipment have been received and are under examination. Arrangements for procurement of organic plants from Germany have been concluded. Arrangements for water supply and electric power have been made with the Maharashtra State Government and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board respectively.

(b) Preliminary plans and estimates have been made and detailed plans and estimates are being prepared.

(c) Approximately Rs. 12 crores.

#### Employees' Provident Fund

\*636. { **Shri Warior:**  
**Shri Vasudevan Nair:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the