

(c) Trials on different makes of wheeled tractors are being carried out and decision will be taken after the results are in hand.

Suicide by an Atomic Scientist

5094. **Shri Baburao Patel:**
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri Umanath:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that led Shri R. Kothandaraman, the 28-year old Scientific Officer of the Atomic Minerals Division Chemical Laboratory at Sundarnagar, Bihar, to commit suicide in early May, 1967;

(b) whether Government intend to hold a judicial enquiry into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of this young scientist;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) The circumstances of the case are still under investigation by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Department.

(b), (c) and (d). The question whether a judicial enquiry is called for or not will arise only after the Chief Vigilance Officer's investigation is over.

Purchase of Wooden Tent Mallets for Defence Purposes

5095. **Shri S. N. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation/complaint or information to the effect that the Exchequer has suffered a heavy financial loss amounting to several lakhs of Rupees in the purchase of wooden tent mallets medium for Defence services at more than 200 per cent above normal rates and in accepting the sub-standard quality store by the inspec-

ting authorities of IGS North India, New Delhi under instructions from the Director (D.R. & D. General) Defence Inspection Organisation, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the said representation/complaint; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Some representations have been received by Government. The main points of the representations are that of the two contracts entered into for the purpose, the rate of supply in one contract is very much higher than that of the other, that the supplies made at the higher rate were not according to specifications and that the inspection work was not satisfactory. One of the complaints also stated that the higher rate was 300 per cent above the normal rates;

(c) The matter is under investigation.

A.I.R. Panaji, Goa

5096. **Shri Shinkre:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints from the singers, writers, musicians and other artistes against some of the local employees of A.I.R. Panaji, Goa on account of discriminatory treatment meted out to them by showing favour to the protagonists or sympathisers of Konkani in allocating programmes;

(b) whether because of this discriminatory treatment meted out to these local employees, many a talents who consider Konkani as a dialect of Marathi and not a distinct language, are not given jobs or programmes in that Station; and

(c) whether Government propose to order an inquiry in this respect?