

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that recently, some officers of Bombay and Saurashtra States killed some lions in the forest of Gir without Government's permission; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the names and designations of these officers and what action, if any, has been taken against them?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Saurashtra have applied the provisions of the Wild Bird and Animals Act, 1912, to lions, lionesses and their cubs and have declared the Gir Forest as "closed area" throughout the year. No one is allowed to shoot lions in the Gir Forest without a permit which is rarely given.

(c) and (d). The dead bodies of six lions and one cub with bullet marks were discovered in the Gir Forest: the matter is reported to be under investigation by the State Government.

#### STATISTICS

**251. Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether an Institute has been set up in Calcutta for the study of improved methods in statistics?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** No new Institute has been set up.

#### SUBSTITUTE FOR RUBBER

**252. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is going on for finding out any substitute of Rubber; and

(b) if so, the progress made in it?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the past two years work on the production of factice, a rubber substitute has been going on in the plastics division of the National Chemical Laboratory of India. Brown and white commercial grades of factice have been prepared there from tobacco-seed oil. 1-lb. samples of the brown and white grades of factice prepared were supplied in December 1952 to the Bengal Water-proof Works, Ltd., Calcutta, for testing.

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#### SCHEDULED TRIBES AND AREAS

**253. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria applied to the specification of the Scheduled Tribes in different States; and

(b) the criteria applied to the specification of Scheduled Areas in different States?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Attention is invited to the Memorandum dated the 15th February, 1951 addressed to certain Members of Parliament, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on the 10th April, 1951.

(b) Preponderance of Scheduled Tribes in the Areas.

#### NEW MINERAL RICH IN RADIO ACTIVE ELEMENTS

**254. Shri N. R. Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new mineral rich in radio active elements like Thorium and Uranium has been discovered in South India?

(b) What is its composition and to what use will it be put after arrangements are made for its exploration?

(c) Is it proposed to export the mineral to the United Kingdom?

(d) Is the fact that this mineral was displayed at the Geological Museum in London, anything to do with the plans for its disposal?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) The so called new mineral 'Cheralite' has been known to Indian Geologists since 1945.

(b) The mineral is a phosphate containing uranium and thorium. The mineral occurs in a very small quantity in a pegmatite and is evidently not of much commercial importance.

(c) As the mineral has been found in insignificant quantity so far the question of export does not arise.

(d) The mineral was evidently displayed as a scientific specimen at the Geological Museum in London. The Geological Adviser to the Atomic Energy Commission has also got a specimen of the same mineral.