

Coal Mines

- *500. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Saradish Roy: ..
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri Sarkar Murmu:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines closed in the State of West Bengal since the declaration of Emergency; and

(b) the reasons for the closure?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) Two.

(b) One due to fire and the other due to financial difficulties.

Model Legislation for Universities

*501. **Shri Esvara Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether model legislation for the administration of universities has been formulated; and

(b) if not, what are the main reasons for the delay?

The Minister in Charge Ministry of Education (Shri Humayun Kabir):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Committee set up for the purpose has not concluded its deliberations.

Production of Children's Literature

- *502. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to promote production of children's literature in the country; and

(b) whether any impetus is proposed to be given to the writers for such ventures?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Shrimati Soundaram Ramachandran): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of National Prize competition for children's literature, initiated in 1954, prizes of Rs. 1,000 are given to authors of best books for children in all Indian languages and Government purchases up to 2,000 copies of each prize winning book for distribution to schools.

Oil Gas in Imphal

- *503. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether highly combustible oil gas was found gushing out from a point in Imphal towards the end of May, 1963 where bridge posts were under construction; and

(b) whether proper prospecting of the area has been taken up, so as to locate gas reserves and to exploit the same?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) Combustible gas was found during the last week of May, 1963 in a well sunk for the construction of a bridge pier at Thumbuthong on the Imphal River.

(b) The gas seepage was examined and samples were collected and tested. Rocks exposed in the neighbouring area are under study in the Central Laboratory of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. A proposal for detailed geological survey of the area is under consideration.

विज्ञान अध्यापकों के लिए प्रकाश पाठ्यक्रम

- *५०४. { श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा :
श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :

क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग के संयोग से माध्यमिक

स्कूलों के विज्ञान अध्यापकों के लिये चार अवकाश पाठ्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन विश्वविद्यालयों में इन पाठ्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जायेगा ; और

(ग) यह आयोजन कब होगा ?

शिक्षा मन्त्रालय के भारसाधक मंत्री (श्री हुमायून कबिर) : (क) से (ग). जी हां। १३ मई, १९६३ और १५ जुलाई, १९६३ के बीच, मद्रास और पूना में एक-एक तथा दिल्ली में दो पाठ्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया गया था।

Petroleum Prices

***505. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government have requested the Centre to consider Gauhati as a port for the purpose of fixation of petroleum prices; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prices of products from Nunmati refinery are being determined on the basis of supply from Tinsukia or Calcutta, whichever is nearer to the point of sale. This arrangement is suitable, inasmuch as it avoids disturbance in the prices payable by the consumers, consequent upon availability of supplies from the public sector refinery at Nunmati. Moreover, this arrangement is consistent with the recommendations of the Oil Price Enquiry Committee's report which has been accepted and implemented by the Government.

"Freedom from Earthquake" Studies

1422. Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for some time past the Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat has been carrying out "Freedom from Earthquake" studies in order to guide the planners in locating major development projects in non-seismic zones; and

(b) if so, whether this work has been completed, and the extent to which the recommendations of the Jorhat Laboratory in this regard have proved useful to the planners?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The Laboratory is studying the regional seismicity pattern of Assam and its neighbourhood for zoning out areas according to their graded seismicity with a view to evolve safety factors in different zones.

(b) The work has not been completed and will require 2-3 years before the Laboratory's findings will be available.

Talcher Coal Mines

1423. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents, big and small, in Talcher Coal Mines during 1962-63;

(b) how many of these proved fatal; and

(c) the amount of compensation, if any, paid to the dependents of the victims of these accidents during the same period so far?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) There were 11 serious accidents in Talcher Colliery during 1962-63.

(b) One of the above accidents proved fatal.

(c) A total sum of Rs. 6,500/- has been assessed as the compensation payable to the dependents of the victims of this fatal accident. The Workmen's Compensation Commissioner has