

Force personnel. However, the aggrieved person can always submit a petition against his discharge and it will be given due consideration.

#### Mercury Deposits in Tarapore

434. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri R. S. Tiwary:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Maheshwar Naik:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mercury deposits have been found near the site of Atomic Power Station at Tarapore; and

(b) if so, the nature and extent of the find?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Oil Exploration in Punjab

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

(a) whether it is a fact that explorations by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Punjab have not yet met with much success;

(b) if so, how many wells have so far been drilled there; and

(c) how many of them were found to contain oil/gas?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4 deep wells and 7 structural wells have been drilled; the fifth deep well is being drilled.

(c) One deep well was found to contain gas; two wells have been found to be dry; and one well is being tested.

#### Sale of Opium

437. Shri U. M. Trivedi: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the rate per seer of opium which is purchased from cultivators;

(b) what are the charges of manufacturing alkaloids from any particular quantity of opium; and

(c) what is the annual profit made by Government from the sale of opium and its products?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The rate fixed for 1961-62 season ranges from Rs. 33.50 to Rs. 41.00 per seer of opium at 7.0 consistence, depending on the average yield tendered by the cultivator.

(b) Rs. 187.20 per kilogram of semi-refined morphine and semi-refined natural codeine.

(c) The profit during the year ending 30th September, 1961 amounted to Rs. 1,39,88,548.

#### Noon-Feeding of Kerala School Children

438. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri P. Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to Kerala during 1960-61 and 1961-62 for noon-feeding of school children;

(b) in how many schools this scheme is introduced;

(c) the number of children being fed under the scheme;

(d) whether Government of India have been asked for the enhancement of the grant; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimani): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) It is not possible to indicate the amount of Central assistance given to Kerala during 1960-61 and 1961-62 for