

Common Police Reserve Force for Southern Zone

- *341. { Dr. Kam Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States of the Southern Zone have agreed to have a common police reserve force for that zone;

(b) if so, outline of the proposal; and

(c) whether a common police reserve force will also be introduced in other zones?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The Southern Zonal Council discussed the matter at the meeting held on September 28, 1957 and decided that it may be examined by a committee consisting of the Inspectors General of Police of the States within the zone and the Mysore State.

(c) The matter is for the Zonal Councils to consider.

Coal Mining

*362. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the private sector of India is getting U.S. aid from U.S. economic development fund for the development of coal mining in India?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): No, Sir.

Bye-Elections

*363. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1210 on the 27th August, 1957 and state the progress made in regard to holding of bye-elections to the State

Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha upto 31st October, 1957?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Seven Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha seats have been filled by bye-elections upto the 14th November, 1957, since the reply to Starred Question No. 1210 on the 27th August, 1957.

Limestone deposits in Mikir Hills

*364. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to conduct a survey in Mikir Hills for limestone; and

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of limestone reserves there?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) It is proposed to make a detailed investigation during the current field season October to April.

(b) As a result of a preliminary investigation carried out by the Geological Survey of India in 1947-48, the reserves of limestone were estimated at about 85 million tons. This figure may have to be revised on completion of this field season's work.

Foreign Shipping Companies

*365. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the amount of freight paid to foreign shipping interests for the carriage of Indian imports and exports in 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57;

(b) the amount of freight paid to such interests for the import of food during 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(c) what attempts have been made so far to minimise foreign exchange depletion on these counts?