

The Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The Committee set up by Government to promote voluntary amalgamation has already held one sitting on the 29th October, 1958. It has issued a circular letter to the collieries in West Bengal and Bihar inviting proposals from them for amalgamation and adjustment of boundaries. The proposals will be examined by the Committee on receipt.

As regards compulsory amalgamation, the necessary legislation is being drafted. The industry will have an opportunity to express its views on the provisions before the draft bill is finalised.

निम्नत में प्राचीन पाण्डुलिपियां

*६४६. { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री नवल प्रभाकर :

क्या वैज्ञानिक शब्देबराय और सांस्कृतिक कार्य मंत्री २६ अगस्त, १९५८ के तारकित प्रश्न संख्या ५३४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि निम्नत में भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण पुरातन ग्रन्थों व पाण्डुलिपियों के अध्ययन और उनकी सूची तैयार करने के बारे में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और सांस्कृतिक-कार्य मंत्री (डा० म० दास) : मामले पर अभी विचार हो रहा है ।

Steel Rolling Mills at Rourkela

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

(a) whether the contract for the erection of steel rolling mills at Rourkela has been given to any party;

(b) if so, the name of the party to whom this contract has been given;

(c) the value of this contract; and
(d) the qualifications and experience of the contractor?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). The erection of the rolling mills at Rourkela has been entrusted to the following contractors:—

Plant	Contractor	Estimated cost of erection. Rs.
Blooming & Slabbing mill	M/s. Sack	16 lakhs
Hot Strip mill	M/s. Demag	71 lakhs
Plate Mill	M/s. Fried Krupp	14 lakhs
Cold Rolling mill	M/s. Sicomag	21 lakhs

The contractors who have been entrusted with the erection of the rolling mills are also the suppliers of the equipment. They have considerable experience in the erection of equipment of their manufacture.

Sculptural Renovation

*648. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Archaeology makes a special effort to utilise the talents of hereditary "sthapatis" for its work of renovation and repairs, particularly in region like Tamil Nad and Orissa; and

(b) whether it is a fact that at Konarak and other sites such work is entrusted to ordinary contractors' labour without experience or aptitude for sculptural renovation and repair?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Centralisation of Taxes Levied on Tea

*649. Shrimati Mafta Ahmed: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suggestions have been received by the Central Government for centralisation

of all taxes levied by States and Central Government on tea; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The suggestion is being examined by the Government

Southern Zonal Council

*650 { Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Punnoose:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Rami Reddy:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing the main decisions taken and recommendations made at meeting of the Southern Zonal Council held at Trivandrum in October, 1958?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): A copy of the proceedings embodying the decisions taken by the Council will be placed in the Parliament Library as soon as the proceedings are ready

Investments in India Under Convertibility Agreement

*651 { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications for investments in India have been received from certain United States' firm under the convertibility agreement entered into between India and the United States of America; and

(b) if so, how many such applications have been approved together with particulars of proposals to which they relate?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two such applications have been approved so far. A statement giving particulars of the proposals is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix III, annexure No 45]

Refinery for Assam Oil

*652. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representative of the Assam Oil Company, in the ad hoc Board of Directors of Oil India (Private) Limited, while forwarding the International Petroleum Consultants' report to Government has laid emphasis on the desirability of setting up unified refinery near the oil-fields in Assam and laying down of a pipe-line to transport the refined products to different parts of the country, and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this proposal and whether any decision has been taken on this point?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The Assam Oil Company Limited while forwarding the report of the International Petroleum Consultants recommended acceptance of their recommendation of setting up a single refinery in Assam with a crude pipe-line upto it from Naharakatiya and a product pipeline from it to Barauni

(b) After careful consideration Government decided that the scheme of two refineries and a crude pipeline in two stages as provided for in the Agreement entered into with the Burmah Oil Company/Assam Oil Company on the 14th January, 1958 should be implemented without delay.