

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.