

**Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

\*1705. **Shri Lachman Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands face considerable difficulties in the matter of inter-island communication in the absence of an all-weather ship;

(b) what is the frequency of the Government ships voyage for Andaman to Nicobar Islands and vice-versa;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to purchase any new vessels for increasing the frequency of inter-island service; and

(d) if so, when such a ship will become available?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government ships (m.v. 'Andaman' and m.v. 'Nicobar' touch Car Nicobar on their voyages to Madras once in every two months. Besides this, m.v. 'Indaus' and Police Boats also ply between Port Blair and Car Nicobar as and when necessary.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) No definite date could be mentioned at this stage.

**Beneficiation of Minerals**

\*1706. **Shri Shivannajappa:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beneficiation work on low grade chromite ore from Hassan district, Mysore State, has been completed; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

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

(b) A sample assaying 38.16 per cent Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 22.20 per cent FeO, was upgraded to 50.69 per cent Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with 80.8 per cent recovery by gravity separation methods

**Discovery of Gold Deposits in Rajasthan**

\*1710. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Geologist had discovered gold mines at Khetri and Dhosi hills in Rajasthan, and

(b) if so, when it is proposed to start excavation work?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). No, Sir The Geological Survey of India had carried out an investigation in this area in May 1958, but no native gold was discovered as a result thereof. In view of the negative results obtained it was not considered worthwhile to continue these investigations.

**Aero-Engines**

\*1711. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that some aero-engines were purchased at £13,975 each instead of £12,500 because the order was not placed in time.

(b) if so, what were the reasons for delaying the order by 11 days, and

(c) whether enquiries were made and responsibility located for this delay?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) A Court of Enquiry has been ordered and instituted. Its report is awaited