

these envelopes containing gold, the Foreign Post was checked up and 21 more envelopes containing approximately one tola of gold each in powdered form were also recovered.

and the nature and quality of soil and water.

The construction of temporary offices and bachelors' quarters at the site camp is nearing completion. The Indian firm of Consultants appointed to prepare a preliminary project report has submitted an interim report on the market survey.

नेशनल एटलस आर्गनाइजेशन आफ इंडिया का मुख्य कार्यालय

११६८-ख. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या वेंचानिक अनुसंधान और सांस्कृतिक-कार्य मंत्रा यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सब है कि नेशनल एटलस आर्गनाइजेशन आफ इंडिया का मुख्य कार्यालय देहरादून से हटा कर कलकत्ता ले जाने का निश्चय किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और सांस्कृतिक कार्य-मंत्री (श्री हुमायून् कबिर) : (क) और (ख) नेशनल एटलस आर्गनाइजेशन का मुख्य दफ्तर शुरू से ही कलकत्ता में है और इसलिये उसे हटाने का मवाल नहीं उठता ।

Steel Plant at Bokaro

- +1169. {
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta;
 Shrimati Renu Chakravartty;
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;
 Shri Ramakrishna Reddy;
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri;
 Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 725 on the 13th August, 1959 and state the nature of progress since made in setting up a fourth steel plant at Bokaro?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Preliminary investigations regarding soil conditions and the field work for a contour survey have been completed. Over 100 holes have been drilled into hard rock and more than 150 pits dug to determine the sub-soil water level

Gold Smuggling

*1170. Shri N. R. Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objects and aims contemplated in introducing special rupee notes for circulation in West Asia by the Reserve Bank of India were achieved in inhibiting the flow of smuggled gold from traditional sources; and

(b) whether the smugglers have switched on to a change in pattern of smuggling operation to circumvent the currency regulations and exchange controls by reviving their business links snapped by these restrictive measures?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) Yes.

(b) Smuggling of gold into India is also financed through other means than the export of Indian notes to the areas in which special Indian currency has been issued. Such smuggling is, however, very difficult, and there is no reason to believe that it has increased recently to any significant extent.

Harijan Welfare Department in Kerala

- *1171. {
 Shri Narayanankutty Menon;
 Shri V. Eacharan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have decided to conduct any inquiries into the working of the Co-operative Societies and the Harijan Welfare Department in the Kerala State; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) The State Government have instituted an inquiry into the working of the Coir Co-operative Societies in Kerala. As regards the Harijan Welfare Department, evaluation of the work done by the Department was undertaken to assess how far the measures taken by the Department had resulted in the achievement of the objectives.

(b) These measures were taken to find ways and to see if any changes were necessary to improve the working of the Societies and the Harijan Welfare Department.

Ex-Members of Income-tax Investigation Commission

*1172. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2270 on the 7th May, 1959 and lay a statement showing:

(a) the dates on which the two former members of the Income-tax Investigation Commission had retired from Government service;

(b) the dates on which they first appeared before the Directors of Income-tax (Special Investigation) on behalf of the party concerned;

(c) whether any prior permission was applied for and given in respect of their appearance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) The two Members of Income-tax Investigation Commission mentioned in reply to Starred Question No. 2270, retired from Government service on 19th April, 1952 and 1st May, 1956.

(b) They first appeared before the Director of Inspection (Special Investigation) as Income-tax Practitioners on 17th December, 1956 and 10th October, 1957 respectively.

(c) and (d). Government's prior permission for their appearance before the Directors of Inspection (Special Investigation) was not necessary. A retired Class I Officer has to obtain prior permission of Government only for accepting "Commercial employment", within 2 years of retirement. Professional service like Income-tax practice is not, however, considered as "Commercial employment".

Production of Oil

*1173. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of oil in the Indian oil fields is capable of being stepped up;

(b) if so, by what percentage; and

(c) what efforts are being made to step up production?

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

(b) By about 20 per cent in the Assam Oil Company areas. Commercial production in the Oil India areas has not started yet.

(c) No efforts are being made just now to step up commercial production, till additional refining capacity at Gauhati and then Barauni becomes available, to process the increased output of crude oil.

Free Education for the Handicapped

*1174. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give free education to the handicapped;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been worked out; and

(c) when this scheme will be implemented?