

श्रम उपमंत्री (श्री आशिष शर्मा) : केन्द्रीय प्रशिक्षण संस्था को कोई तोड़ने का सुझाव नहीं है। इस संस्था को कलकत्ता ले जाया जा रहा है। वहाँ बहुत बड़े बड़े कारखाने हैं जिनमें नई ढंग की मशीनें और काबिल इन्जीनियर हैं। ऐसे इन्जीनियरों की देख रेख में और नई नई मशीनों की मदद से इन्स्ट्रक्टरों को ज्यादा अच्छी ट्रेनिंग और काम का अनुभव मिलेगा।

दस्तकारों के लिए कोनी का औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र कोनी में ही बना रहेगा। इस केन्द्र के लिए पहले ३१६ सीटें मंजूर थीं जो बढ़ा कर ४८० कर दी गई हैं। इस संस्था को और बढ़ा कर ७८४ करने का विचार है।

Uranium Deposits

*737. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Damani:
Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 900 on the 15th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether any further reports regarding uranium deposits occurring in Salem district have been received; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes. The latest report indicates that the deposit is superficial, presumably derived from a distant source and precipitated at the present site from circulating groundwater. Necessary investigations have been started for tracing the source rock.

Payment of Compensation

*738. **Shri Keshava:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority

Affairs be pleased to state when shall complete settlement regarding compensation be achieved in respect of claims of refugees from West Pakistan?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Only about 34,000 cases now remain to be settled against a total of 4.86 lakhs cases. These cases are expected to be disposed of by the middle of 1960. The claimants in whose favour Statements of Account are issued, will utilize the compensation amount on the purchase of property from the Compensation Pool or on payment of public dues.

Displaced Contractors

*739. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government issued a circular to States of Assam, Orissa and West Bengal in 1948 and subsequently not to demand earnest money from displaced contractors; and

(b) if so, whether that order is still in force?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) A Press Note was issued by the Government of India in June, 1948 stating that the displaced contractors who were unable to furnish securities, may for the purpose of Government contracts offer personal securities.

(b) No. In the Western region it was discontinued in June, 1954 and in the Eastern region on 31st December, 1957.

Small Scale Industries

*740. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for establishing five industrial

centres on the pattern of those for small-scale industries in Japan with Japanese collaboration in India is under the consideration of the Government of India;

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

(c) when a final decision is likely to be arrived at?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Such a suggestion emerged in the course of discussions with a Japanese delegation which visited India in September, 1959. A prototype centre is being established with Japanese collaboration for small and medium scale light engineering industries at Howrah.

Indians in Burma

*741. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Nationals residing in Burma and whose landed estates have been nationalised are permitted to repatriate their compensation amounts to India;

(b) if so, how much; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). The Government of Burma have recently decided to grant facilities for repatriation of that portion of the compensation which is payable in cash. This is based on the value of the land nationalised subject to a limit of Rs. 2,500. These facilities are not admissible in respect of compensation payable in bonds.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Platinum into Gold

*742. { **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian atomic scientists have found a method to convert platinum into gold;

(b) if so, whether any quantity of platinum has been converted into gold; and

(c) if so, whether it is profitable from commercial point of view?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):

(a) The conversion of platinum into gold by neutron-irradiation in an atomic reactor, the separation of the resultant radioactive gold from platinum and its identification has already been achieved elsewhere. The scientists of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay working in the American reactor at the World Agricultural Fair carried out an experiment in which radiogold was prepared from platinum. The experiment was undertaken as part of routine work and is not a new discovery.

(b) The amount of platinum converted into radiogold was about one hundredth of one millionth of a gram.

(c) The radiogold has no value as bullion. It has great value as a radioisotope for research, medical or industrial use. In any event, the conversion of platinum, which is more expensive, into gold would be uneconomic.