

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (c). 1,556,525 tons of pig iron, including pig iron for steel making and 550,073 tons of semi-finished and finished steel have been produced by the three steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur upto October, 1960. Out of this 913,769 tons of pig iron and 268,097 tons of semi-finished and finished steel have been sold locally. Sales have been made either direct from the steelworks or through controlled and Registered Stockists.

(b) A statement showing country-wise exports is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 34].

"Smuggling of Precious Stones"

*861. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that precious stones worth Rs. 15 lacs were recovered from a rice bag at Palam airport from an Irani Passenger on the 16th October, 1960?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Precious stones worth about Rs. 15 lacs were recovered from a rice bag and a purse carried by an Iranian passenger at Palam Airport on 16th October, 1960.

Estimates of Rourkela Steel Plant

*862. **Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase recently in the estimates of Rourkela Steel Plant; and

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

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). There has been no recent increase in estimates of the Rourkela Steel Plant. In view of the increase

in quantities of Civil Engineering Works etc., however, the estimates may be higher than anticipated earlier. Hindustan Steel Limited are now engaged in compiling the revised estimates of all the three plants on a uniform basis and it is proposed to lay them on the Table of the House shortly.

Sahitya Akademi

*863. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by the Government of India to Sahitya Akademi since its inception;

(b) whether Government exercise any check on the utilisation of the afore-mentioned amount; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the amount was spent?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Rs. 24,81,315.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the activities detailed in the Annual Reports, copies of which are available upto 1958-59 in the Library of Parliament. Activities for 1959-60 and 1960-61 are also of a similar nature. Copies of these reports when ready will be sent to the Parliament Library as usual.

Air Accidents

*864. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two I.A.F. Jets met with an accident in the morning of 24th November, 1960;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Court of Inquiry has been ordered in accordance with the Air Force Rules. Until the proceedings are finalised it is not possible to indicate the results.

Oil Survey

*865. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any offer for participation in search for oil from Italy;

(b) if so, the nature and details of the offer; and

(c) action taken thereon?

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

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the nature and details of the offer.

(c) The offer is under consideration.

Cultural Grants to Madhya Pradesh

1621. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the names of organisations which were given grants for promotion of cultural activities in Madhya Pradesh during 1959-60; and

(b) the amount sanctioned to each of them?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Kalidas Samaroha Samiti, Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Rs. 7,500

Archaeological Survey in Madhya Pradesh

1622. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken in Madhya Pradesh

regarding ancient temples and places of archaeological and historical importance during 1959-60 and 1960-61 so far; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) *District Bhind.*—At Asohna, Barauli, Jamdara and Mow of Gohad Tehsil, black and red ware was discovered. Some interesting terracotta figures were also found from Barehat.

(ii) *District Jabalpur.*—Sculptures of the tenth to twelfth centuries in the Kalachuri style were found at Bhandari-Kalan, Patan, Fular, Bhita, Pipariya and Kunda. Stone implements were found in the valleys of Pariat, Gau and Hiren. Tools of Series I occurred in Pipari and Series II at Batai, Birhula-Khera, Deori, Doli, Danda, Gauriya, Kalan, Keolari, Khajarwara, Nimkheda and Saliwd. Microliths and Black and Red Ware were found at Nirandpur, Patan and Bhita.

(iii) *District Nimar (East).*—Some microliths and painted pottery (black on red) were found on the Tapti. Palaeolithic and Microlithic tools were also found at Jamadhad, Maturpur, Chanera, Mojwadi, Garbardi, Chalapakhur, Tosaniya and Karoli of Burhanpur and Harsud Tehsils.

(iv) *District Vidisha.*—A large number of medieval sculptures were noticed at Shamsabad.

(v) *District Bilaspur.*—The Survey brought to light a few Buddhist antiquities, and temples and forts of late period.

(vi) *District Rewa.*—123 villages have been surveyed and the work is in progress. Temples of Shiva and other architectural remains have been discovered in the villages Nipania, Kothar, Ghorchta-Vrat, Baijnath, Kachur, Aghdal and Dhochat, the last three sites being associated with Rani Kundar Kunwar queen of Raja Ajit Singh (1755-1809).