

Amalgamation of Collieries

*321. Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legislation for compulsory amalgamation of small collieries has since been finalised for being introduced during the current session of Parliament; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh)**: (a) and (b). Government have been considering this question for some time and have now reached the conclusion that the present is not the opportune time to introduce this legislation as the process of compulsory amalgamation may cause physical hold-ups, which would be to the detriment of the scale and tempo of the production effort needed during the next Plan period.

Foreign Assistance for Oil Exploration

*322. { **Shri Radha Raman:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 111 on the 3rd August, 1960 and state:

(a) how far negotiations with foreign interests regarding exploration and exploitation of oil in our country have progressed; and

(b) with what results?

The Minister of **Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya)**: (a) The proposals received from the various oil companies are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

Import of Steel

*323. **Shri A. M. Tariq**: Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount out of Development Loan Fund has been made available for import of steel during the next two years;

(b) if so, how much;

(c) whether it is a fact that no amount has been made available out of Development Loan Fund for the import of tin plates in the above period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh)**: (a) to (d). The United States Government have expressed their willingness to make available a new loan under the Development Loan Fund Programme, for the import of steel during 1961-62. The quantities and categories of steel to be imported under this Loan are still under consideration. It is proposed to import some quantities of tinplates also.

Effect of Rise in Gold Price in U.K.

*324. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state whether the money market of India was in any way affected by the rise of price of gold in U.K., in the last weeks of October, 1960?

The Deputy Minister of **Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat)**: No, Sir.

Municipal Scavengers in Orissa

402. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi**: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been given to Orissa during 1960-61 for providing amenities to the Municipal scavengers; and

(b) if so, how much?