

(d) No, Sir. But Government are taking steps to ensure normal operational efficiency.

Indian Technicians to Russia

*470. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda:

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

(a) how many Indian technicians have been sent to Russia so far for training in oil refinery and processing; and

(b) whether all of them have come back?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) 59.

(b) No, Sir.

Prices of Agricultural Food Products

*471. Dr. Samantsinhar: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of rise in the wholesale price index when the prices of various agricultural food products are going down or are steady; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce the wholesale price index and when the net results would be achieved?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The rise in the general index of wholesale prices over the last year was mainly due to poor crop for two successive years of raw materials, especially jute and oilseeds and the consequent increase in the prices of these materials and the products made from them.

(b) It is Government's policy to maintain reasonable stability of prices of essential commodities. Appropriate measures are taken from time to time towards this end. In respect of foodgrains and certain other essential commodities, these measures have already shown results.

Border Areas

{ Shri P. G. Deb:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
*472. { Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any border areas have been notified under the amended Criminal Act to check political activities prejudicial to the integrity of the country; and

(b) if so, in which States?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). No border areas have yet been notified under Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1961.

Gold Deposits in Kerala

{ Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri P. G. Deb:
*473. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Jinachandran:
Shri Rajendra Singh:

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

(a) whether gold deposits have been found in some areas of Kerala;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity so far explored;

(c) whether any scheme for detailed survey of the areas has been included in the Third Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the cost of the scheme?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No new deposits of gold have been recorded by the Geological Survey of India in Kerala. The occurrence of gold in the Wynad gold belt extending both in the Madras and Kerala States is known since long.

(b) The Wynad gold field of Madras and Kerala was prospected from