

**'Mass Insurance' Scheme**

\*705. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
 Shri Radha Raman:  
 Shri Damani:  
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion of the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation commending a 'mass insurance' scheme covering workers in industrial and commercial establishments and Government departments to obtain 'mass business' has been considered by actuaries and other insurance experts;

(b) if so, their opinions in this regard;

(c) whether the precise nature of this scheme has been drawn up; and

(d) whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) to (c). The suggestion of the Chairman is still under the examination of the Life Insurance Corporation.

(d) Does not arise at present.

**International Indian Ocean Expedition**

\*706. { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarbadi:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to take part in the International Indian Ocean Expedition next year (1962);

(b) if so, how many Indian ships will take part in it; and

(c) the area in which they will operate?

**The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four to six Indian ships are expected to take part.

(c) The Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and some areas lying to the South as far as the Equator.

**Coal Deliveries**

\*707. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the measures adopted by Government to see that coal deliveries are made according to allocations decided by Government; and

(b) how far these measures have succeeded?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) The following measures have been adopted to bring an improvement in the despatches of coal:—

(i) The rail transport capacity for coal movement from Bengal/Bihar fields has been increased by 200 wagons per day from July last.

(ii) In addition to whatever can be moved by rail, movement of coal to Southern and Western parts of the country has been planned by the rail-cum-sea route via Calcutta port.

(iii) Movement in block rakes is being arranged in the case of industries having low priorities, for example, brick burning and small scale industries.

(iv) Coalfields in the Central India are being developed in the Third Plan so that nearby States may get their supplies from these fields and the long haulage from Bengal/Bihar fields may be avoided.

(v) Coal dumps are being set up at suitable consuming centres by the various States.

(vi) Movement of coal and soft coke by road has been liberalised.

(vii) The daily coal loading target is being increased from 6535 wagons in 1961 to 6925 wagons in 1962.

(b) As a result of all these measures, the despatches of coal have increased from about 33.9 million tonnes during the first nine months of 1960 to about 37.6 million tonnes during the first nine months of the year 1961.

#### Price of Iron and Steel

\*708. { Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether Government have considered the question of reduction in the price of steel and iron;

(b) whether we retain our position as cheapest steel producers in the world and if not, why and to what extent that position has been affected; and

(c) to what extent the old units have been affected in the matter of cost of production?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Precise information about the cost of production of steel in foreign countries is not available. Prices of some categories of steel abroad are, however, lower than our prices. Prices continue fluctuating.

(c) The Tariff Commission are at present examining the cost of production of steel in the older units. Their report is awaited.

#### Gold Deposits in Kerala

\*709. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 473 on the 14th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any steps have since been taken by Government to carry out detailed geological survey of the Wynad area in Kerala for assessing

the quality and quantity of gold deposits in the area;

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken; and

(c) when the survey is expected to be completed?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (c). Detailed investigation of the Wynad goldfield has been included in the programme of work in the Third Five Year Plan. Field work will commence shortly on the Madras side of the Goldfield. This work is expected to be extended to the Kerala side during the second half of the III Plan period. According to the programme drawn up, the survey is to be completed during the III Plan.

#### Oil Exploration in Gujarat Region

\*710. { Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

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

(a) the progress of oil exploration work in the Gujarat Region;

(b) the details of final or tentative assessment of the potential production of crude oil in the region;

(c) the number of wells so far drilled and found to contain (i) oil, (ii) gas; and (iii) those found dry;

(d) what is the result of tests recently reported to be carried out with the yields of the last two wells; and

(e) whether facilities and arrangements are sufficient for the refining of the oil?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has carried out about 15,566 square miles of gravity/magnetic surveys, about 2400 square miles of detailed geological mapping, about 4300 square miles of regional mapping, 766 line miles of geological traverses, and 1969 line