

an area of about 400 square miles has recently been examined by the Geological Survey of India.

(b) The Director, Geological Survey of India, reports that only a few seams of coal have been recorded in the area. In certain localities oil shows were observed but no favourable structure for oil accumulation was met with. There are no other minerals of economic importance in the area so far examined.

(c) (i) Geological Survey of India.

(ii) The Nazira Coal Company Ltd., who have obtained from the State Government a mining lease for coal in the Naga Hills District.

(iii) The Burmah Oil Company (India Concessions) Ltd., who have been granted prospecting licences for petroleum for two areas in the Naga Hills District under the Petroleum Concession Rules.

(d) Rupees 6,400, apart from the salary and allowances of an officer of the Geological Survey of India, who has been working in the area.

(e) The Director, Geological Survey of India and the State Government report that in general, the attitude of the local inhabitants towards the work undertaken was neither specially helpful nor could it be termed hostile.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the exploratory work was carried out under guard?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have no information.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the terms on which these non-official agencies are doing the exploratory work?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They are carrying on the prospecting work under the Petroleum Concession Rules. Concessions have been given to them under those rules.

INDIAN SEA-CUSTOMS

*858. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Sea Customs had been established at French Indian ports from 1941 to 1949?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): Yes. There was a Customs Union between India and the French Possessions in India from 1941 to 1949.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know why the Indian sea customs which had

been established in French Indian ports was discontinued, and what were the effects of the withdrawal of the Indian sea customs?

Shri Tyagi: The Government of India, with a view to reconsidering the situation with regard to the settlement of customs and on account of the changed circumstances, gave notice on 30th March 1948, for the termination of the Customs Union Agreement with effect from the 1st April, 1949. But before the expiry of the notice the Government of India expressed to the Government of France its willingness to continue the Agreement till the referendum if the Government of France so wished. This suggestion, however, evoked no response from the Government of France, and about a fortnight before the date of expiry of the Agreement the French Indian authorities put forward proposals, not for a continuance of the Agreement of 1941, but for considerable modifications to it, including a claim for an increase in the compensation to be paid to the French Indian Government.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What has been the effect of the withdrawal of the customs?

Shri Tyagi: The effect has been increased smuggling activities on the part of the French Indian people on the other side, with the result that our financial and economic policy has been impeded and our economic relations with French India are deteriorating.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government propose to re-establish the sea customs at French Indian ports so that increased smuggling might be ended?

Shri Tyagi: Some talks are going on between the Government of India on the one side and French Indian authorities on the other. I am not in a position to say anything more about it. I do not know what the result will be.

ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

*859. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and constitution of the All-India Council for Technical Education; and

(b) the principles laid down for affording financial assistance to technical institutions in India?