

Minerals other than Oil

*1810. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury** : Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state the names of places in West Bengal where survey was undertaken to discover deposits of minerals other than oil during the period from 1947 to 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall) : A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 45].

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether any scheme has been prepared for the exploitation of any of the minerals mentioned in the statement?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : The purpose of the Geological Survey of India is to make the survey, and it is for the State Governments and the Government of India to take necessary action.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether investigations have been suspended at present or they are going on? If they are going on, at what places are they going on?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : Investigations by the Geological Survey of India?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : Yes.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : The Geological Survey of India has a programme of field survey, and the whole work is carried on according to that programme. I do not know what particular item the hon. Member is referring to. If he gives me notice, I shall enquire.

Anti-Smuggling Measures

*1811. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of the steps taken by the Government for checking smuggling between Pakistan and India; and

(b) the further steps that are contemplated to achieve complete success in preventing smuggling?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha) : (a) Variations in smuggling are generally due to many factors including success of the anti-smuggling measures taken by the Government and others connected with commercial position. So it is not possible to say precisely to what extent smuggling

on the Indo-Pakistan border has been checked by the measures taken by the Government but the indications are that a degree of success has been achieved in this regard.

(b) Anti-smuggling measures of the Government change from time to time according to the necessity to combat changed technique of smuggling. Moreover it would not be in the public interest, Sir, to disclose all the measures which are now taken or under the consideration of Government to suppress smuggling.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know whether the devaluation of the Pakistan rupee has had any favourable effect so far as the prevention of smuggling is concerned?

Shri A. C. Guha : I think it is rather too premature to make any assessment. But we expect that that will have some effect in reducing the smuggling, and that there will be less incentive for smuggling now.

Shri D. C. Sharma : Is it a fact that there are professional gangs of smugglers operating across the borders, and Government have not taken any substantial measures to check them?

Shri A. C. Guha : Sir smuggling is apparently a profession. So, there must be some professional gangs. I think Government have been taking all possible measures. But in spite of those measures there is bound to be some smuggling. The hon. Member has suggested that there should be complete success in preventing smuggling. I do not think any country can claim to have had complete success in preventing smuggling. It is much more difficult of our country particularly because we have land borders without any natural boundary, ran in over 1750 miles. I cannot be so optimistic as to say that we shall ensure complete success in regard to the prevention of smuggling.

Shri D. C. Sharma : What are the favourite articles in both the countries, in which smuggling is indulged?

Shri A. C. Guha : That varies according to the changes in the market position whenever it is profitable to smuggle an article, it is smuggled into the other country. At present, on the eastern side, betel-nut is, I think, the most favourite article for import. On the export side, textiles are the most favourite articles to be smuggled from this side.

Excavations in Bihar

*1813. **Shri Ibrahim** : Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of excavations carried out in the State of Bihar during 1952, 1953 and 1954 to discover ancient historical monuments; and