

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is intended to set up four zonal councils for the Northern, Eastern, Central and southern zones covering the whole country. The nominations are being finalised and an announcement will be made shortly so that the Councils can begin functioning in the new year.

Jet Fighters and Bombers

- *422. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :
Shri Ram Krishan :
Shri D. C. Sharma :
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with British firms for the purchase of Jet Fighters and Bombers;

(b) if so, the number of such fighters and bombers; and

(c) whether efforts are being made to manufacture the same type of jets in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi) : (a) to (c). An agreement has been entered into with a British firm for the manufacture, under licence, of the 'Gnat' Fighter aircraft at Hindustan Aircraft Limited. Initially, a certain number of aircraft of this type will be purchased outright from that firm. It will not, however, be in the public interest to disclose the number.

All India Industrial Management Service

- *423. { Shri Gidwani :
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bahadur Singh :
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha :
Shri Ram Krishan :

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 332 on the 26th July, 1956 and state;

(a) the number of persons who will be recruited to the All India Service for manning industrial undertakings owned or managed by the State:

(b) what will be their qualifications;

(c) how will they be selected; and

(d) what will be their salaries?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a), (b) and (d). The scheme is still under consideration. Information on these points will be furnished as soon as a final decision is taken.

(c) Recruitment will be made through the U.P.S.C.

Survey of Blind Population

- *424. { Shri D. C. Sharma :
Sardar Iqbal Singh :
Sardar Akarpuri :

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 823 on the 22nd August, 1956 and state :

(a) the further progress made so far with regard to the proposed sample survey of the blind population in the country; and

(b) the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : (a) and (b). The Expert Committee appointed to draw up the questionnaires has finished its work. Steps are being taken to carry out the survey in select areas.

Currency Note Press, Nasik

*425. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether currency note Press at Nasik printed currency notes for foreign countries during 1955-56; and

(b) if so, how many foreign countries placed such orders?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Insurance Corporation Employees' Wages

- *426. { Shri Bansal :
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wage bill of the Insurance Corporation is likely to go up substantially as compared to the total wage bill paid by the insurance companies before rationalisation; and

(b) if so, the additional amount involved from the date of nationalisation ?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah) : (a) Yes, Sir, as far as we can now see.