

(a) whether it is a fact that the Geological Survey of India is conducting a survey between Jangalgali and Kokakot in Jammu;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) its full details?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). The Geological Survey of India is at present carrying out a preliminary examination of the coal belt in this area as a preliminary to detailed work later on.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CASTES ETC.

485. Shri Vallatharas: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the 17.5 per cent of reservation of scholarships for the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in respect of the Government of India Merit Scholarships has been fixed, and whether the fixation has got any reference to the population basis; and

(b) the reasons for adoption of a syllabus for the screening, testing and examination of the candidates in respect of the Merit Scholarships in general on the basis of age instead of the class or standard in which the candidates study?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) On the same basis as the reservations approved by Government in 1952 for applicants from these classes in connection with recruitment

to Government posts and appointments selection for which is made purely on merit by open competition on an all-India basis.

(b) Preliminary screening of candidates from each State was done by the State Government concerned in the manner best adapted to the needs of the candidates. The Psychological tests which all the screened candidates had to take were specially designed to assess only their intelligence and not their scholastic attainments for which the question of class or standard is relevant. As regards written tests, which were administered only to candidates above 9 years of age, the syllabus was drawn up by an Expert Committee with the Headmasters of the Scindia School, Gwalior and the Modern School, New Delhi as Members.

WELFARE PROJECTS IN MYSORE

486. Shri Siddananjappa: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Social Welfare Board has sanctioned grants for the construction of buildings for the Welfare Projects in Mysore State;

(b) if so, the total amount of grants sanctioned during 1955-56; and

(c) the names of welfare projects that have received grants for the purpose?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.