

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) One organisation was paid a grant in 1954-55. No grant was given in 1955-56.

(b) Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar—Rs. 3,000/-.

National Volunteer Force

1197. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether training centres for the National Volunteer Force at each Community Project area in the Punjab and P.E.P.S.U. have been opened during 1955-56.

(b) if so, the strength of the force trained at each centre; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far for each training centre.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Locations of the Lok Sahayak Sena training camps are fixed in consultation with the State Governments. 6 of the camps held in the Punjab during 1955-56 were in Community Project areas. Only 2 camps were held in PEPSU during this period and they were not in Community Project areas.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 17].

Cultural Ties with West Indies

1198. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the steps that Government have taken to strengthen and develop cultural ties between India and West Indies?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): No Special steps have been taken to strengthen and develop cultural ties particularly with West Indies. Our cultural activities with West Indies form part of our normal programme of cultural relations with foreign countries in general.

The steps taken to strengthen and develop cultural ties with West Indies consist of the following activities:—

- (1) Awarding scholarships to students from British West Indies for availing facilities for higher education in India;

(2) Sending eminent scholars on lecture tours;

(3) Sending cultural lecturers;

(4) presentation of books;

Survey of Backward Areas

1199. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether Government has drawn up any scheme to survey the backward and unexplored areas of the country and particularly the areas out of these where there are possibilities of mineral resources?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): In drawing up the programme of field survey of the Geological Survey of India attention is focused primarily on areas which are potentially rich in mineral wealth, irrespective of whether these areas are backward or otherwise. The programme of work of the Geological Survey of India includes practically all the items requested for by the various State Governments and other organisations interested in the development of minerals. The programme also includes the decisions arrived at by the various mineral Conferences held in 1954 and 1955.

Government Servants

1200. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Central Government Servants in the clerical grade who have put in more than ten years of total service are now required to pass typing test;

(b) if so, the reasons for this test; and

(c) the number of such persons?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passing the typing test conducted by the Union Public Service Commission at 30 words per minute is a pre-requisite for confirmation in the clerical grade in the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices.

(c) Approximately 3,300.

Prospecting Licences

1201. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the convention of All India Mineral Industry held at Calcutta in June, 1956 passed any resolution complaining