

Optical Glass

1012. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Education and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute in Calcutta is conducting research for the manufacture of optical glass;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in the research; and

(c) whether the Institute has approached any foreign country or any foreign firm for the technical know-how in the preparation of optical glass and with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Equipment required for melting optical glass has been designed and fabricated at the Institute and some trials on the suitability of raw materials available in the country have been conducted. Further work is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

Technical Assistance Schemes

1013. { Shri Barman:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Castes selected so far for studies abroad under various technical assistance schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Under the Technical Assistance Schemes, Indian nationals are sent abroad for training with reference to the need for such training in various fields connected with the economic development of the

country. No classification or reservation is made with reference to Scheduled Castes etc.

Zoological Survey of India

1014. { Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of **Education and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of specimens are lying unidentified in the Zoological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the total number of such unidentified specimens;

(c) the period for which they were lying unidentified; and

(d) the reasons for which they were lying unidentified?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) to (d). About 57,000 specimens have yet to be identified, the bulk of which were collected during the last 25 years. They have remained unidentified largely on account of the shortage of staff at the Zoological Survey of India in the past and general shortage of systematic zoologists in the country. Besides, on account of the size of the country, its varied climate and Geography, the Fauna of India is of an extremely varied character, as a result, the number of specimens to be identified is of necessity very large.

Foreign Exchange Allotment to Indians going abroad

1015. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the amount of Foreign Exchange in hard and soft currencies sanctioned to Indians going abroad since the imposition of foreign exchange control restrictions were adopted?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The following table shows the amount of