

(b) what is the annual requirement of these materials in our country; and

(c) whether the said quantity is manufactured in our country?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No estimates of requirements are available.

(c) Not at present.

Limestone Mines in Purnapani

*1131. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd. has stopped working the limestone mine at Purnapani from the 1st July, 1959;

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

(c) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd. is getting its limestone requirements from any other mine?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Mining operations in the pilot mining scheme at Purnapani were suspended on 30-6-1959 because the target of 37,000 tons fixed for the pilot scheme had been achieved and the quarries were getting flooded with water and it was not considered economical to continue to pump the water and work the mine.

(c) Yes, Sir, from M/s Birsia Stone Lime Company.

Foreign Exchange earned by Indian Shipping

2072. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of foreign exchange earned by Indian shipping during 1959 so far?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Information is so far available only for the first five

months. During this period, of five months January—May 1959, the gross receipts of the principal Indian Shipping Companies operating in the overseas and adjacent trades amounted to Rs. 9.84 crores. Figures of net earnings of foreign exchange are not available.

Technical Education in Punjab

2073. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state the amount of grant (capital and recurring) given to the Punjab Government for advancement of technical education during 1959-60 so far with details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): No grants have been sanctioned for 1959-60 so far. According to the revised procedure, the state Governments receive automatically ways and means advances from the Central Government of a sum equivalent to 3/4 of the approved provision made for assistance to the respective States, in nine monthly instalments beginning with the month of May. Sanction for Central assistance is given towards the end of the financial year on the basis of actual expenditure incurred by the State during the first three quarters and the anticipated expenditure during the last quarter.

Provision has been made for a sum of Rs. 6.40 lakhs for Centrally Sponsored Schemes and that of Rs. 8.00 lakhs for State Schemes to be given as assistance to the Government of Punjab during the current financial year.

Birsia Science and Industry Museum, Calcutta

2074. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 158 on the 12th February, 1959 and state the up-to-date progress made in the establishment of the Birsa Science and Industry Museum, Calcutta?