

(b) the result of the assessment of these problems made by the Government of West Bengal;

(c) whether the requirements of the squatters have been included in this assessment; and

(d) the amount of money that will be required for solving the residuary problems?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (d). The Government of West Bengal have recently submitted a report containing an assessment of the residuary problem of rehabilitation in so far as it relates to grant of loans to displaced persons living outside camps including squatters. The report does not deal with the residuary problem in respect of other matters such as rehabilitation of displaced persons in camps, acquisition of land, development of colonies, etc. and a further report is awaited from the State Government in respect of these matters. According to the State Government's assessment, now received a sum of about Rs. 710 lakhs would be required for disbursement as loans to displaced persons living outside camps. The report is under examination.

Mineral Sand Deposits

*1235. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1904 on the 18th April, 1959 and state the steps taken to have a detailed field survey and laboratory tests of mineral sand deposits on Kovalam beach?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Preliminary estimates indicate that the total reserves of ilmenite and other minerals in the sands on Kovalam Beach are small and commercial exploitation of the sands will not be economical. However, the

Director of Geology, Government of Kerala, in co-operation with the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy proposes to carry out a detailed field survey after the rainy season. The laboratory tests will be done by the Atomic Minerals Division after the completion of the survey and collection of the samples.

Rural Programmes of A.I.R.

*1286. Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. B. V. Keskar): (a)

(a) whether the rural programmes of A.I.R. are planned in consultation with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and

(b) whether in any of these programmes the participation of progressive farmers is also secured?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. B. V. Keskar): (a) The rural programmes are planned in consultation with the various Departments of the State concerned and expert authorities. Close liaison is maintained also with the Food and Agriculture Ministry of the Union Government.

(b) Farmers who show initiative in trying out new methods and achieving outstanding results are encouraged to participate in the rural programmes.

River Feni

*1257. { Shri Bangshi Thakur:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 541 on the 23rd February, 1959 and state the latest developments in regard to the dispute over River Feni which lies between Tripura (India) and East Pakistan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): Relevant historical records are at present under study, after completion of which, the matter is to

be considered further by the Survey Officers of Tripura and East Pakistan, as suggested by the Government of Pakistan.

Employees Provident Fund

*1288. { Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri Mulchand Dubey:
Shri Keshava:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Half-an-Hour Discussion on Employees' Provident Fund Scheme held on the 4th May, 1959 and state what progress has been made in creating a Reserve Fund for compensating those employees who although having contributed towards Provident Fund were deprived of benefits because the employers concerned failed to deposit the money realised from the workers along with their own contribution?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abd All): The question is being examined in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund.

Government Quarters at Ring Road, Delhi

*1289. { Shri Warior:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supplying be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of Government quarters are left vacant at the Ring Road, Punchkuin Road, Press Road Area and Dev Nagar;

(b) how long it will take for these vacant quarters to be allotted to Government employees; and

(c) how much loss Government incurs per mensem by leaving them vacant?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No Government quarters are lying vacant in

Punchkuin Road and Dev Nagar. 5,292 flats are in various stages of construction in three colonies along Ring Road 132 quarters, which were in a more or less dangerous condition, have been got vacated in Press Road Area for demolition or carrying out of extensive repairs. The construction, demolition or repairs, as the case may be, will be completed in all respects at various points of time within an overall period of about one and a half year.

(c) As the flats on Ring Road have not yet been completed in all respects and the quarters in Press Road Area are either under repairs or awaiting repairs or demolition, the question of any loss to Government does not arise.

Rise in Price of Coffee

*1290. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Warior:
Shrimati Parvathi
Krishnan (1):

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep rise in the price of coffee in the South in the recent weeks; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. But the rise has only been in respect of one type of coffee, namely, Plantation. The rise in prices of Plantation Coffee is surprising in view of the fact that 2,385 tons of Plantation Coffee were released from January to June this year as against 1,718 tonnes for the corresponding period last year; the only reason for this rise in price can be cornering of stocks by dealers. In order to prevent cornering of stocks, the Coffee Board has decided that the total quantity of Plantation Coffee that may be declared to any dealer in any Pool Sale shall be limited to 10 tonnes.

No fresh permits will be issued either for participation in pool sales