

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir; a few American oil companies have made offers for collaboration in oil exploration.

(b) The offers made by foreign oil companies for prospecting oil in India are under consideration. As negotiations are still going on, it is considered inadvisable in public interest to indicate Government's reaction in the matter.

All India Depressed Classes League

2396. Shri Siddiah: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been sanctioned to the All India Depressed Classes League for the year 1960-61 so far for carrying propaganda for the removal of untouchability in the country;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and the details of the schemes submitted by the League; and

(c) whether the League has submitted its annual report of progress of work done and the audited accounts for the year 1959-60?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) A grant has been sanctioned for 1960-61 for schemes for propaganda for the removal of untouchability to the Bharatiya Depressed Classes League (not All India Depressed Classes League).

(b) Rs. 1,45,800/-. A statement showing details of the schemes is laid on the table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 110].

(c) No grant was given to the League during 1959-60.

Post-Matric Scholarships to Backward Classes in Mysore

2397. Shri Siddiah: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications have been received from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other

Backward Class Students in Mysore State for the award of post-Matric scholarships for the year 1960-61; and

(b) how many have been awarded scholarships in each category upto the 10th December, 1960?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). The scheme of Scholarships for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Class Students has been decentralised with effect from 1959-60 and the applications for these scholarships are received by the State Govts. concerned. Information as to the number of applications received by the Government of Mysore and the number of scholarships awarded for the year 1960-61 has not so far been received from the State Government.

Welfare of S.C., S.T. and other Backward Classes in Mysore

2398. Shri Siddiah: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount sanctioned to Mysore State for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes for the year 1959-60 has been utilised only for the schemes approved by the Central Government;

(b) whether there is any deviation; and

(c) whether the amount sanctioned has been fully utilised?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Commissioner for S.C. and S.T.

2399. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) how many times Punjab has been visited by the Commissioner for