

Mica Mines

246. Dr. U. Misra: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of mica mines in Bihar have closed down due to uneconomical prices of mica; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the mica industry from the present crisis?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). According to the notices received by the Director, Indian Bureau of Mines, under the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1958, a total number of 42 mica mines are reported to have been temporarily closed and 4 mines permanently closed against 36 mines re-opened and 17 new mines opened, during the period January to September, 1963. Thus the number of mines opened during the period is more than the number of mines closed down. The price level of the various varieties of mica taken as a whole is reported to have been more or less stationary during the period.

Drilling in Tanjore

247. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploratory drilling is being carried out at Aladikuvilai village in Tanjore; and

(b) if so, the result achieved so far?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A structural well is being drilled near Aladikuvilai village, two miles north of Pattukottai, with the object of obtaining information regarding the nature of the sub-surface rock formations. The well will be drilled down to a total depth of 1050 metres. The results can be assessed only after this depth is reached.

Museums

**248. { Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Balgovind Verma:**

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Museums Advisory Board has sanctioned some amounts for the museums of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total amount of assistance sanctioned; and

(c) the museums which will be benefited by this assistance?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). On the advice of the Central Advisory Board of Museums, a sum of Rs. 3,15,000/- has been allocated by the Government of India for the development of Museums in Madhya Pradesh during the 3rd Plan period. Out of this allocation, a sum of Rs. 39,500/- has so far been released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on the basis of their requirements.

- (c) 1. M. G. Museum, Raipur.
2. Central Museum, Indore.
3. Central Museum, Gwalior.
4. State Museum, Dhubela, Nowgong.
5. District Museum, Dhar.
6. Government Museum, Vidisha.
7. Shivpuri Museum, Shivpuri.
8. New Museum at Bhopal.
9. New Museum at Jagdalpur.

Anniversary of Purandara Dasa

249. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme at Government level to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Purandara Dasa,