

Survey for Gold in Kerala

1558. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for gold deposits has been undertaken in Devala in Wynad, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed investigation in the region of Devala is in progress. The result will be available after it is completed in all respects.

Coir Industry in Kerala

1559. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of modernising the Coir Industry in Kerala so as to enable the industry to meet the demands of the sophisticated world market;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) when it is likely to be implemented?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the programme are:

(i) mechanisation of one-third of the coir-matting sector,

(ii) setting-up of a mechanised factory by the Coir Board for the production of coir mattings on powerlooms,

(iii) setting-up of a National Coir Training and Design Centre,

(iv) introduction of quality control and pre-shipment inspection, and

(v) diversification of production.

(c) The schemes at (iii) and (iv) above have already been implemented. Item (ii) is expected to be implemented by the end of the current year. Others are in the course of implementation.

Market Research Survey of Handloom Products

1560. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a market research survey of handloom products was conducted jointly by the All India Handloom Board, the Textile Committee of the Union Government and the South India Textile Research Association;

(b) if so, the main findings of the survey; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage handloom industry in the light of the various findings of the survey?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) No, Sir. Only the South India Textile Research Association has been entrusted with a continuing programme of conducting 'Market Research Study' of the handloom industry.

(b) The salient features of the study and their recommendations are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5694/66*].

(c) These recommendations and suggestions are under the consideration of the All India Handloom Board.