

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (i) and (b) The examination of the recommendation made by the working group appointed to look into the question of providing guarantee for advances made by credit institutions to hitherto neglected sectors has since been completed. Government has decided that a comprehensive scheme to provide guarantee for advances to small farmers, small transport operators, small retailers, other small business professionals and other self-employed persons should be instituted. The scheme will be operated by a joint stock company in which the Reserve Bank will hold the majority of the stock. It is hoped that the company will be set up in the near future.

The broad features of the scheme will be that 75 per cent of the loss incurred in loans to the above categories of borrowers up to certain specified ceilings will be reimbursed to the banks who will be expected to pay a guarantee fee on their lending to these sectors. While the guarantee facility available to eligible institutions will be optional, the credit institution will, if it desires to avail itself of the facility, have to bring its entire lending to these sectors under the guarantee cover. Eligible institutions will include besides the commercial banks, the State Financial Corporations, cooperative credit societies, both rural and urban, central cooperative banks, Agricultural Credit Corporations and central and primary land development banks.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

872. SHRI SANDANARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of the Geological Survey of India is working at Vajrakur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the time since when the team has been working, and what is the progress made till now; and

(c) whether the working of the said team will be continued, and if so, for how long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since November, 1968, the Geological Survey of India started detailed work with exploratory pitting, and bulk sampling in the

Vajrakur area of Anantapur districts, Andhra Pradesh. Six small diamonds weighing in all 3.27 carats were recovered by hand-crushing and treatment of the pipe rock, in addition to 5 small diamonds weighing 2.09 carats recovered from surface and soil over the pipe rocks.

(c) The work in the Vajrakur has been suspended for the time-being because the Geological Survey of India do not consider it desirable to continue further investigations in the area as the result has not been significantly encouraging. A final decision in the matter will be taken by the Government shortly.

EXPORT OF DIESEL OIL BY ESSO

873. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ESSO has submitted a proposal offering to export high speed diesel oil and high diesel oil;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal;

(c) whether Government have examined the proposal; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

OUT-DATED TAX FORMS

874. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter written to the Editor which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times', dated the 12th June, 1970, regarding out-dated tax forms; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The changes made in the Income-tax law through the Finance Act, 1970,