

In the Mahanadi delta area, geological mapping and gravity and magnetic surveys have been carried out. The surveys are to be continued.

In the south-eastern part of West Bengal, seismic surveys have been carried out. The surveys are to be continued. Drilling of a deep well is being started.

(b) On the basis of the available data, the prospects in the Cauvery basin appear to be better than those in the other areas mentioned under (a) above.

(c) In the Cauvery basin, exploration is being carried out, intensively, with the help of two seismic parties, one structural drilling rig and one deep drilling rig. To intensify the exploration work, it is proposed to deploy one more deep drilling rig in this area.

In the south-eastern part of West Bengal, exploration is being carried out intensively with the help of four seismic parties and to follow up the results of the seismic surveys, a deep drilling rig is being put into operation.

RECOVERY OF UNLICENSED TRANSMITTER SETS

*432. SHRI P. C. MITRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the Table of the House in connection with the answer to Starred Question No. 548 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1965 and state :

(a) whether all the 12 transmitter sets recovered were in order and were capable of sending messages beyond the borders of India; and

(b) whether the said transmitter sets were manufactured in one country or more than one and the name or names of the manufacturing countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) 8 transmitter sets were reported to be in order. Out of these 6 were capable, under favourable conditions, of sending

messages beyond the borders of India. Information on the remaining 4 sets is being collected from the State Governments.

(b) The transmitter sets were manufactured in more than one country namely U. K., U.S.A., Holland and Japan. One was self-assembled. The required information in respect of one set is not available and this is being collected.

ARAB STUDENTS STUDYING IN INDIA

*434. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Arab students studying in India at present on the Government of India's Scholarships; and

(b) the countries to which they belong ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION [DR. (SHRIMATI) T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN] : (a) 61 scholars from Arab Countries are at present studying in India under scholarship Schemes administered by the Ministry of Education;

(b) Aden (4); Iraq (5); Lebanon (5); Jordan (23); Sudan (11); Syria (4); Trucial States in the Gulf area (1); Yemen (1); UAR (7).

RISE IN CENTRAL SALES TAX

*436. SHRI MAHAMMED HANEEF :
SHRI D. THENGARI :
DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI
TALWAR :
SHRI U. S. DUGAL :
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kirana merchants of Delhi observed a hartal as a mark of protest against enhancement in the rates of Central Sales Tax;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to modify the rates of the sales tax; and

(c) what are the details of the new levies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The rates at which Central tax may be levied on inter-State sales are prescribed by the Central Sales Tax Act, 1957. By an amendment of the Act, the rate of such tax on inter-State sales to registered dealers was enhanced from 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. with effect from the 1st July, 1966. Government do not propose to revise this rate.

The Act, however, empowers the State Governments, when it is necessary to do so in the public interest, to grant exemption from the payment of Central Sales Tax or to reduce the rate of tax, on such goods or class of goods and subject to such conditions as the State Government may specify by notification. In exercise of these powers, Central sales tax is levied at a concessional rate on certain categories of goods, re-exported from Delhi subject to certain conditions if such goods have suffered Central sales tax at the time of their import into this Union territory. The concessional rate was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from 1st July 1957 to 31st March 1963 when the normal rate of Central sales tax was 1 per cent. and was increased to 1 per cent. from 1st April 1963 when the normal rate of the tax became 2 per cent. There has been no further increase in the concessional rate with the increase in the normal rate to 3 per cent. from 1st July, 1966. Certain procedural difficulties experienced by the traders in Delhi in availing of the concession were brought to the notice of the Government and the question of making certain changes in the existing orders on the subject is under consideration.

RELEASE OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH

*437. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI Y. A. REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to release Sheikh Abdullah;

(b) if so, when he will be released; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA) : (a) Government have not decided to withdraw the internment order on Sheikh Abdulah.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons which made it necessary to intern him continue.

PAY SCALE OF N.F.C. INSTRUCTORS IN DELHI

*438. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scale of the National Fitness Corps Instructors' (Under-Graduates) in Delhi, starts from Rs. 95 p.m.; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to revise their scale to bring it at par with that of the Physical Education Teachers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Fitness Corps being an All India Organisation, the scales of pay of its instructors cannot correspond with the scales of pay of State Physical Education Teachers.

SURVEYOR CRAFTSMANSHIP DIPLOMA AT FEROZEPUR

*439. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Surveyor Craftmanship diploma awarded by Industrial Training Institute at Ferozepur is recognised by the Government for recruitment to the post of Senior Surveyor;

(b) what are the basic educational qualifications for admission to the Surveyor Craftmanship diploma course of that Institute; and