

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
NARATN:

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 ?