

Rajya Sabha on the 8th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the extension of refinance facilities of the Re-Finance Corporation to the banks without requiring them to become shareholders of the Corporation; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of industries which can qualify for loans of the Re-Finance Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) It has been decided in principle to extend refinancing facilities immediately to all licensed scheduled banks, without requiring them to become shareholders of the Corporation.

(b) The Corporation will have the discretion to determine, within the broad framework of the five-year plans, the eligibility of any particular industry for assistance under the re-financing scheme.

DEPOSITS OF SULPHUR FOUND IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

*134. { SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:
SHRI K. K. SHAH:
SHRI M. M. MEHTA:
SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge deposits of good quality sulphur have recently been discovered in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to have these deposits explored; and

(c) what is the quantity of sulphur annually imported in India and how far India will be benefited by this find of sulphur in the above Islands?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A preliminary investigation was carried out by the Geological Survey of India during 1959-60 for sulphur in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Fairly good quality sulphur was found during the investigation. The work done so far is, however, of a very preliminary nature and, therefore, complete and precise information regarding quantity, quality, etc. cannot be given at this stage. Further investigations for assessing the quality and quantity of sulphur are being planned.

(c) The quantity of sulphur imported during the last few years are given below:—

Year	Quantity Tons	Value Rs.
1957	115,491	34,529,896
1958	117,928	23,637,441
1959	143,345	25,519,000

As quantity and quality have not yet been assessed, it is premature to say how far India will be benefited by this find.

FLYING OF AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT OVER EASTERN LADAKH

*135. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any unidentified aircraft were detected to have flown over eastern Ladakh and particularly over the border village of Chushul and in Phobrong region in the months of May and June 1960; and

(b) if so, how many times and from which direction they were noticed to have flown?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON): (a) and (b) There were two flights as under:—

(i) Two unidentified jet aircraft flew over Spanggur approximately 7 miles South-east of Chushul on 31st May, 1960. The aircraft came from Tibet side and returned in that direction.