

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 335 fencing posts.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The theft was reported to the civil police authorities who recovered 257 fencing posts and handed them over to the Military Farm. The case is now in the hands of the civil police.

MINERAL ADVISORY BOARD

*400. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Advisory Board at its last meeting held on August 3 and 4, 1960 at Bhopal considered the report of the Mineral Benefication Committee;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) when Government are going to finalise their conclusions on the report?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board was held on the 3rd August, 1960 only.

(b) The Board considered the various recommendations made by the Committee and expressed its views on them except on two items relating to establishment of a National Ore Dressing Laboratory and evolving of a positive mineral policy for which the Board suggested formation of *ad hoc* committee to go into the matter in greater detail.

(c) The views expressed by the Board and its recommendations are under consideration of the Government and decisions will be taken as soon as possible.

On. FIELD FOUND NEAR AGRA

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA
♦401. SWAMY:
SHRI RAM SAHAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agra police have recently discovered an oil-field near Balkeshwar on the bank of the Jamuna; and

(b) if so, what are its potentialities for oil prospecting?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

On receipt of a message from the State authorities on 8th August, 1960, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission were asked to investigate the alleged oil show on Jamuna Bank near Balk-eswar Temple about five miles from Agra. Two Technical Officers of the Commission visited the site and collected samples of sand and oil. The results of the examination of these samples and the geological associations of the oil show are such that the occurrence of natural hydrocarbons in the area appears to be improbable. The matter will be investigated further by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission after the rains.

**SMUGGLING OF GOLD BY SHIP
"BUT*EVERETT"**

*402. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Customs authorities have seized 8,320 tolas of gold from the ship "Ruth Everett";

(b) whether it is a fact that some gold was seized from persons who were on board the ship; and