

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is for the different Zonal Councils to consider this question and take such action as they consider proper.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Are we to understand that this is a stepping-stone for the formation of Zonal States which the Central Government is said to be contemplating?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I did not follow the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this a stepping stone for the formation of Zonal States which your Ministry is supposed to be contemplating?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There is no basis for the impression that the hon. Member has.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the Zonal Police is also for dealing with the decoit menace?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It will be useful in various ways.

SETTING UP OF A FERRO-MANGANESE PLANT

*301. SHRI M. D. TUMPALLIWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a ferro-manganese plant on the bank of the river Kanhan in Vidarbha; and

(b) if so, where and when it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government have approved a proposal by a private party for setting up a ferro-manganese plant near Kanhan Railway Station subject to satisfactory settlement of deferred payment terms for plant and machinery. It is not possible to say precisely when the plant will be set up.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any ferro-manganese plant has so far been started in any place in the country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I require notice.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: May I know if any survey has been made of the proposed plant?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Some preliminary work has been done.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IMPARTING CORRESPONDENCE COURSES OF TRAINING

*302. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state :

(a) the number of educational institutions in India which impart correspondence courses of training with the approval or recognition of Government and the names of the subjects in which training is imparted by these institutions; and

(b) whether qualifications acquired under this system are good enough to secure employment under Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course. I might inform the hon. Members further that as far as the Ministry of Education is concerned it does not recognise any degrees or diplomas of any institute imparting courses through correspondence, and we have also issued Press Notes drawing the attention of the public to the names of some institutions which award such unauthorised degrees and diplomas.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether Government have any supervision or control measures over these institutions so that they are not bogus institutions?