

setting up of a consortium of banks as recommended by the Shroff Committee; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether it has been decided to set up the consortium and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

INVESTMENT GUARANTEE INSURANCE SCHEME

388. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to any decision regarding their joining the Investment Guarantee Insurance Scheme sponsored by the Government of the United States of America; and

(b) what are the details of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

EXPLORATION OF MINERALS

389. SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government exclusively in exploring minerals during the year 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the names of the places where minerals have been found; and

(b) whether there has been any income to Government from this side?

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

STATEMENT

(a) A number of departments of the Central Government are concerned with mineral exploration. Information with regard to each of these instated below:—

(i) *Geological Survey of India*.— The amount spent by the Geological Survey of India exclusively on mineral exploration cannot be ascertained without undertaking an amount of labour incommensurate with the value of the information sought. This is because the Department undertakes a number of other activities also *e.g.* engineering geology, ground water exploration, etc. The total expenditure on the Department in 1955-56 was Rs. 60,62,000 and in 1956-57 Rs. 1,04,60,000. Roughly between 1/3 to 1/2 of this expenditure would relate to mineral exploration.

Information regarding¹ the places where minerals have been found consequent upon the exploration conducted by the Geological Survey of India in 1955-56 is given in the Department's journal "Indian Minerals" for October-December, 1956 a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Information with regard to 1956-57 will be available in the similar publication for that year under preparation.

(2) *Indian Bureau of Mines*.—The expenditure incurred by this Department on mineral exploration was Rs. 34,96,000 in 1955-56 and Rs. 1,07,22,000 in 1956-57. No new mineral deposits were found, since the Bureau's role is to undertake intensive work in the mineralised areas located by the Geological Survey of India.

(3) *Oil and Natural Gas Commission*.— The expenditure incurred was Rs. 75,200 in 1955-56 and Rs. 79,06,350 in 1956-57. No oil has yet been struck.

(4) *Atomic Energy Department*.— The Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Prime Minister.

•ter to Unstarred Question No. 214 on July 27, 1956 in the Lok Sabha?. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the names of places where atomic minerals have been found.

(b) Income will accrue to Government in the form of royalties, dead rents, cesses, taxes, etc. when concessions in respect of these new finds are granted and the minerals actually exploited.

INVENTION OF AN APPARATUS USING SOLAR ENERGY FOR WORKING RADIOS

390. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi has invented an apparatus whereby solar energy can be used to work radios; and

(b) if so, whether it is available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

WELFARE EXTENSION PROJECTS IN MYSORE

391. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Welfare Extension Projects proposed to be established in Mysore during 1957-58; and

(b) the places where these will be located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHREVALI): (a) and (b) It has been decided to establish three Welfare Extension Projects at (i) Holakere, Chitaldrug District, (ii) Ron, Dharwar District and (iii) Baindur, South Kanara District. One Welfare Extension Project has been sanctioned for

North Kanara District and another is proposed to be started in Bidar District but their location has not yet been decided upon. Complete programme for the whole of the year 1957-58 has, however, not yet been finalized.

VISIT OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

392. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of foreign Christian missionaries from Commonwealth countries who (i) came to India and (ii) returned to their countries, during 1956-57?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (i) According to the information available 756 Commonwealth missionaries were granted "Special Endorsements" during the period. The number of such persons who actually came to India is, however, not known; and

(ii) The information is not available.

EXPLORATION FOR OIL IN THE SOUTH

393. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exploration for oil will be undertaken in the South during the Second Plan period; and

(b) if so, in which State the exploration will begin first?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) There is a large alluvial tract on the coasts of Southern India where marine sediments occur. Some of them may be suitable for formation of oil and the coastal regions of Andhra, Madras and Kerala will have to be systematically surveyed. Exploration work in these areas is proposed to be taken up towards the end of the Second Five Year Plan. Where the exploration will commence first will be determined after detailed proposals are formulated.