

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND

240. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds which accumulated under the Coal Mines Provident Fund up to the end of the financial year 1956-57;

(b) how much of the fund represents contribution of the subscribers;

(c) what was the number of subscribers at the end of the year 1956-57; and

(d) what is the amount so far distributed amongst the subscribers since the introduction of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) About Rs. 874 lakhs.

(c) About 3:33 lakhs.

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(d) About Rs. 44 lakhs up to the end of April, 1957.

OCCUPATION OF 'CHAR' ISLET BY PAKISTAN

241. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistani authorities claimed the entire breadth of the river Feni as Pakistan territory and have occupied the 'Char' Islet naming it as Pakistan island?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): No, Sir.

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND INDIA

242. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has been concluded between the Governments of India and Egypt recently; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the agreement?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of the understanding reached, a special Rupee Account has been opened by the State Training Corporation of India (Private) Limited to provide easy payment facilities to exporters and importers. The Special Account will be used for purchasing cotton and cement from Egypt and the sale proceeds will be used to promote the export of jute goods, tea, pepper, tobacco, electric fans, diesel engines, centrifugal pumps, dry batteries and other engineering, chemical and pharmaceutical products to Egypt.

INSTALLATION OF SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTER AT GAUHATI

243. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new 10 K.W. short wave transmitter has recently been installed at Gauhati under the Colombo Plan;

(b) if so, whether the transmitter has already gone into operation; and

(c) what cost has been incurred on the transmitter by (i) the Government of India and (ii) the Government of Australia?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The figures of actual expenditure on the transmitter are not yet available. The estimated total cost of the project is Rs. 6 lakhs. Of this, the expenditure incurred by the Government of India on installations and incidental charges is about Rs. 3 lakhs. The cost of equipment received from Australia is Rs. 3 lakhs approximately and has been met under the Colombo Plan.