

the country's current estimated demand is about 10,000' tons per annum. It is not possible to say at this stage when the country would be self-sufficient as this would depend upon the availability of adequate quantity of lead deposits which have yet to be fully explored.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES EXHIBITIONS IN RURAL AREAS

178. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have sanctioned any amount to the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board for holding exhibitions in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Board has drawn up any scheme to hold such exhibitions; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Rs. 300,000 has been sanctioned to the Board for holding exhibitions in the rural areas during 1955-56. In 1954-55 and 1953-54, also, some funds for the purpose were given to the Board.

(b) Yes. These exhibitions are organised either by the State Boards or recognised local Institutions which are engaged in constructive work. The All India Khadi and Village Industry Board gives them assistance "by way of grants out of the funds placed at its disposal by the Central Government.

(c) Exhibitions are usually organised by the Board either on special occasions such as Gandhi Jayanti, National Week, Constructive Workers' Conference or are held during fairs or local festive occasions. In these exhibitions, the processes of production of Khadi and village industries are also demonstrated. Sales are also conducted.

BURMESE CONSULTANT TO STUDY MONAZITE SANDS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

179. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Mr. Soon Sein, Consultant to the Union of Burma, Atomic Energy Centre, has visited or is likely to visit Travancore-Cochin to study monazite sands containing uranium and thorium?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : U Soon Sein accompanied by U Bha Thin and U Sein Han, members of the Burmese Chamber of Mines, visited the Indian Rare Earths Factory and Mineral sand processing plants in Travancore-Cochin on the 29th October 1955, and the Thorium-Uranium Plant at Bombay on the 2nd November 1955.

ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LADAKH

180. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Kushak Bakula, Deputy Minister of Ladakh Affairs, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, spent a week in Delhi in connection with assistance for the development of Ladakh area in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what assistance, if any, has been promised by the Government of India?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a), (b) and (c). Shri Kushak Bakula came to Delhi mainly for making arrangements for his visit to Tibet. He also discussed with the Ministries concerned the various development plans already sanctioned for Ladakh. No specific assistance was promised as a result of his visit to Delhi.