

manufacture of superphosphate by the usual method of reacting with sulphuric acid and that alternative methods will require a large amount of cheap electric power.

AMOUNTS OF AID TO COAL-MINES BY COAL BOARD

*414. SHRI B. GUPTA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state the number of mining concerns which are granted aid for filling up the void caused by the extraction of coal from coal mines?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): The number of mining concerns that received such aid in 1953-54 was 55.

LABOURERS AND STAFF IN HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LIMITED

*420. SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of labourers and staff working at present in Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) what was their number when Government took over the shipyard from the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The total number of staff and labourers working at the Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam on the 1st September 1954 was 3360.

(b) 4,238.

*421. [Postponed to 23rd September 1954.]

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN INDIA

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

(a) the number of Afghan refugees at present residing in India;

(b) what is the annual expenditure incurred by Government on account of those refugees;

(c) what are the reasons for treating them as refugees; and

(d) whether there are any refugees who have been recipients of help from Government for several generations; and if so, what is their number?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU):

(a) Thirty-two. Out of them 29 are in receipt of maintenance allowances, etc.

(b) About Rs. 1,00,800 per annum.

(c) Afghan refugees were brought to India a long time, in some cases more than 50 years, ago either because they themselves or their parents were inimical to the Government of Afghanistan.

(d) The maintenance allowances given to the Afghan refugees are admissible for their lifetimes or until such time as they leave India. In the past, in certain cases the successors of deceased Afghan refugees were given allowances *ex gratia* though at reduced scales.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

190. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total amount spent by Government on international conferences held in foreign countries in—

(i) 1950,

(ii) 1951,

(iii) 1952 and

(iv) 1953?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): The information on the basis of previous data collected in reply to ques-