

been carried out in Khasimara Valley in the District of Khasi and Jaintia Hills in Assam by the Geological Survey of India; and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Council, when received.

INVESTIGATIONS FOR OIL AND MINERALS IN SUBANSIRI AREA OF ASSAM

***344. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS:** Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether any investigations were carried out for oil and other minerals in Subansiri Area in the North East Frontier Agency, Assam; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Council, when received.

ARTICLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE

***345. DR. RAGHU VIRA:** Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking in order to take advantage of the excavations that are being carried out as a part of irrigation and other projects in different parts of the country and to rescue all articles of archæological value;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions in the matter to the officers concerned with actual excavations; and

(c) what objects of archæological interest have been brought to light so far and in what places as a result of such excavations?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) When archæological antiquities are discovered during irrigation projects, the Department of Archæology surveys the place in order to salvage as much of the ancient relics as possible. When archæological sites are known to exist at sites chosen for irrigation or other projects the Department of Archæology conduct salvage operations or persuade the authorities to divert the project to leave the archæological sites free.

(b) No, as it is not necessary. The officers of the Department of Archæology maintain the desired contact.

(c) Since the hon. Member has not indicated the period or the area to which his question refers, no specific reply can be given. His attention is however drawn to the reports of the Director General published from time to time.

ARAB POET WADII BOUSTANY

***346. DR. RAGHU VIRA:** Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arab Poet Wadii Boustany applied to the Government of India for a grant;

(b) if so, what was the amount of the grant asked for;

(c) what are the books which have been translated by the poet;

(d) whether these books have been printed and published; if so, where, when, at what price, and how many copies of each;

(e) what reception these books have received in the Arab world;

(f) what Government intend to do with the copyright; whether they intend to publish these translations and sell them at profit;

(g) whether the Gold Medal which is reported to have been awarded to the poet by the Lebanese Government