

FOREIGN CURRENCY IN INDIA

55. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan coins and currency notes and Burma currency notes are being smuggled into India for circulation; and

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the smuggling of such foreign currency into India?

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI C. D. DESHMUKH) : (a) Government have no information that Pakistan coins are being smuggled into India for circulation. As these coins can be easily distinguished from Indian coins there is no likelihood of their passing into circulation in India. There have, however, been a number of cases of over-printed Pakistan and Burma currency notes having been imported into India and passed off as Indian notes after cleverly removing the over-printing by some chemical or other process. This is not, however, a recent development and the number of such notes in circulation has decreased considerably of late as a result of the steps taken by Government to check their circulation.

(b) Government have banned the import of Burma notes from Burma. The import of Indian notes from Burma is also restricted. Every possible step is taken by the Customs authorities to enforce these restrictions effectively. Government have warned the public against acceptance of altered notes and have also published the serial numbers of over-printed notes of larger denominations. In addition arrangements have been made for exchange of over-printed Burma currency notes which have been so altered that the alteration cannot be readily detected.

EXTRACTION OF OIL IN WEST BENGAL.

56. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standard Vacuum Oil Company has submitted any proposal for the prospecting of oil in West Bengal;

(b) what is the quantity of oil reserve in the areas surveyed by the Company in West Bengal; and

(c) when the work to extract the oil will commence?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD) : (a) to (c). Attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given on the 3rd December 1952 to unstarred question No. 28 in the Council of States. A copy of that reply is placed on the Table of the Council for convenience of reference. The situation has not altered since then.

Statement referred to above

OIL RESOURCES IN BENGAL

28. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: (a) Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether an aero-magnetic survey for petroleum products in the Bengal basin has recently been concluded?

(b) If so, what are the results of the survey?

(c) Has the survey shown any oil resources in the Bengal basin area?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative what is the estimated area covered by oil and what is the estimated amount of oil to be mined there?

(e) Are the Government taking any steps for the mining of this oil?