

discussions at Manila were confidential.

The Government of India have expressed their regret at the signing of this Treaty as they have felt that this will not help in furthering the atmosphere of peace which was, to some extent, helped by the Geneva agreement.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

*1481. **Sardar Akarpuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians residing in Portuguese Possessions outside India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): No exact statistics of Indians in Portuguese Possessions outside India is available. It is however estimated that in Portuguese East Africa there are about 4,000 persons of Indo-Pakistani descent.

फिल्मी संगीत

*१४८३. श्री भक्त बर्दान : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री ३ सितम्बर, १९५४ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ५०१ के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि फिल्मी संगीत के सम्बन्ध में फिल्म निर्माताओं के साथ चलने वाली बातचीत टूट गयी है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir. There have been no significant development since I gave my last reply to Starred Question No. 501 on 3rd September 1954.

(b) Does not arise.

BENEFICIATION PLANTS FOR UPGRADING MINERAL ORES

*1487. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of establishing beneficiation plants for

upgrading mineral ores like chromite, ilmenite and manganese and a ferro-manganese industry in India;

(b) whether State-sponsored beneficiation plants will also be encouraged as "custom mills" for the benefit of small mining units; and

(c) whether manganese beneficiation schemes will be co-ordinated with Rourkela Steel Project, etc.?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Ferro-manganese is already being manufactured in India by some of the existing steel producers. The question of beneficiation of the mineral ores as an economic possibility is still under investigation.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at present as the question of beneficiation is still under investigation.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

*1489. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what proposals have been put forward by the foreign automobile expert, associated with the Tariff Commission for increasing the sale of new Motor Vehicles in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present rate of interest charged by a number of hire-purchase companies come to nearly 18 to 24 per cent. per annum; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend financial assistance on reasonable terms to the purchasers of new vehicles?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The proposals are embodied in his report on Automobile Manufacture in India which is a priced publication. Copies of the report are also available in the Lok Sabha Library.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No, Sir.