

graded programme of science activities, (iv) improvement of syllabi, (v) training of teachers and (vi) provision of laboratory and library facilities. The programme also envisages the utilisation of assistance from UNICEF and UNESCO.

(c) The State Governments have been consulted.

Central Board of Secondary Education

1433. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fee of Rs. 300 has been prescribed to accompany an application for recognition of a school for higher secondary education by the Central Board of Secondary Education;

(b) if so, whether this fee or a portion thereof is refundable in case the School is not recognised; and

(c) whether this Board encourages the linguistic minority schools like those for Sindhis in the matter of recognition and payment of fee and to what extent?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The rules for recognition and the rate of fee are uniform for all schools including linguistic minority schools.

Census of Handicapped Persons

1434. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs was approached by various social workers to include the physically handicapped

deaf, dumb and blind persons while collecting the last census report; and

(b) if so, their reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An examination of the enquiries on infirmities including physically handicapped, deaf, dumb and blind, in successive censuses upto 1931 proved them to be so unreliable that it was decided to discontinue this enquiry as part of census after 1931.

International Conference on Public Education

1435. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the UNESCO Executive Board at its meeting held in Paris in October last protested against that organisation's withdrawal of their services for International Conference on Public Education held in July this year; and

(b) if so, what was the Board's reaction to the Indian objection?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The majority of the members of the Executive Board upheld the Indian objection. The Board passed a resolution that in future, States, which are not members of UNESCO, should be invited to the International Conference on Public Education only if the Board so resolves by a two-thirds majority. This has since been approved by the General Conference of UNESCO.

Natural Gas from Cambay Fields

1436. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pipelines to carry Cambay natural gas to Dhuwaran