

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (d). No formal proposal has yet been sent to the Soviet Union. The matter has however, been informally discussed with the Soviet authorities and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission are exploring the possibility of obtaining three helicopters for oil exploration work.

Microfilms of Rare Manuscripts

1576. { Shri D. D. Mantri:
Shri B. N. Kureal.
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a project for having the rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic and other important documents microfilmed;

(b) whether an international organisation have offered assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the nature of the assistance offered?

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

(c) The Unesco have made available a mobile microfilm Unit and the services of an expert for a period of four months for the purpose.

Assistance to Ceylon for Refining Crude Oil

1577. **Shri D. D. Mantri:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have offered assistance to the Government of Ceylon to refine their crude oil;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance offered; and

(c) the terms thereof?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Teaching of Agriculture in Port Blair

1578. **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture is one of the subjects taught in higher secondary classes in Government schools at Port Blair, Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, whether any agriculture farms are attached to these schools for practical field work by students of agriculture;

(c) whether any practical work on any other farm was done by students of agriculture; and

(d) if so, the names of the farms and the number of days in 1963-64 academic session on which students worked on those farms?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Advance Increments to Section Officers

1579. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had under consideration the question of giving advance increments to Section Officers in the Government Departments at certain stages; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

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

(b) It has been decided to grant advance increment to Section Officers at two stages subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and necessary orders are being issued.