

struction there. The first phase of the Paradip port has been approved by the Government for an intermediate port; three crores had been sanctioned for dredging work and it is under way. Every preparation is made. Once this contract with the Japanese team is more or less discussed, things will get moving.

Non-Ferrous Metal Industry

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- *355. { Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri P. K. Ghosh:
Shri Buta Singh:
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the steps being taken to develop the non-ferrous metals industry so as to make the country self sufficient therein?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 83].

Shri P. K. Deo: From the statement we find that even though there is a large deposit of bauxite ore in this country, still we are importing this conductor grade aluminium. May I know if any new licences have been given for setting up aluminium plants and, if so, when these new plants will be commissioned and when we will be self-sufficient in so far as the conductor grade aluminium is concerned?

Shri Kanungo: We will be self-sufficient in aluminium in the course of about two years, when all the plants which have been licensed come into production, but as far as the conductor grade is concerned, we are still doubtful, because actually the process of manufacture is required there, and I believe in a couple of years it will be possible to do that.

Shri P. K. Deo: In which of the areas will these new plants be coming

up and is there any likelihood of any plant coming up in my State?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. Not yet.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know whether exploration has been made by the Geological Department for tin and antimony in this country and, if so, what are the results?

Shri Kanungo: The possibility of antimony is somewhere round Lahaul and the weather condition and transport conditions are unfavourable. Investigations are still continuing, but it has got to be confined to a very few months in a year.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: About tin?

Shri Kanungo: There is nothing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The statement laid on the Table says:

"In the absence of sufficient ore deposits in the country, except in the case of aluminium, there is hardly any possibility of attaining self-sufficiency in respect of non-ferrous metals in the near future."

May I ask, since Independence—since 1947—whether any intensive survey of the country with regard to copper, Zinc and lead has been carried out and, if so, what results has it yielded?

Shri Kanungo: It has been carried out and it is being carried out. So far, there are no chances of getting any sizeable deposit of these metals.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if the Government is aware that with regard to the non-ferrous metals that are available particularly copper,—of the country today, there is a lot of difference between the price of the processors and that of the actual consumers and manufacturers?

Shri Kanungo: Most of it is imported. Between the price of processors and the price of the imported materials, there is scarcely any difference.