

push it through. Some hon. Members were impatient as to why there ought to be six months, why not tomorrow. He is trying to explain that these statements on the floor of this House do not help to get the scheme implemented as quickly as possible. I do not feel that there is any homily.

**Shri Ranga:** If you would be good enough to look into the answer that he has given, you will find that it is a homily.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members are not in need of any homily; they want only replies.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** May I know whether the Government will take steps to encourage the travellers from India to use these travellers' cheques on the State Bank of India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The only method by which we can encourage them to do it is to make it available at all places. It is better to have cheques than cash or Bank drafts though the cheques will be more costly than bank drafts, the advantages are that cheques can be cashed at any place; there are a number of places where you can cash cheques, whereas in the case of bank drafts one has to go to the particular bank and wait there for a long time. These are factors which will, probably, ultimately make these cheques popular. We will certainly do whatever is necessary to make it popular.

#### **Iron and Manganese Ore in Bombay**

\*1096 **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient quantity of Iron and Manganese is available in Ratnagiri District of Bombay State,

(b) whether Government have undertaken a survey of this area, and

(c) whether there are any mines working in that area at present?

**The Minister of Mines and OH (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Some of

the deposits of iron ore and manganese in this district are sufficiently large to be capable of commercial exploitation.

(b) The Geological Survey of India carried out a survey of the iron ore and manganese ore deposits in this district during the field season 1949-50 and 1951-52. In addition, it did some detailed investigation of the manganese ore deposits in the field season 1956-57, which investigations will be continued in the next field season. The Geological Survey of India propose to carry out a similar detailed investigation into the iron ore deposits also during the next field season.

(c) There are two iron ore and three manganese ore mines working in that area at present.

**Shri Assar:** May I know whether the Government are aware that nearly 400 applications are pending for a long time in the office of the Collector, Ratnagiri, seeking permission to start mining and, if so, what are the reasons for the delay?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Applications for mining leases are made to State Governments, because they own these properties. I am sorry to state that State Governments sometimes take longer time than what we think they should. Therefore, I will refer these question of delay to the State Government, so far as the hon. Member's report is concerned.

**Shri Assar:** May I know what policy is to be followed by the Government in granting licences, whether local people would be given first preference?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** According to our Constitution we cannot give any preference so far as granting of mining lease is concerned. We cannot give any preference to any local or other people. Everybody is allowed to apply for mining leases, and there are certain rules which guide us in granting such licences.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know when the investigation is likely to be completed?

**Shri K D Malaviya:** Investigations are a continuous process. Some detailed investigations have already taken place. As I said in my answer, the results so far indicate that there are sufficient quantities for commercial exploitation.

**Shri Yajnik:** May I know if the Government at the Centre divests itself of responsibility in the grant of mining licences simply because at the preliminary stage the State Government has to deal with it? The Centre should see and should take all measures to see that the consideration of this matter at the preliminary stage is expedited under instructions from the Centre, so that they do not divest themselves of the responsibility in the matter and bring it on the State Governments.

**Shri K D Malaviya:** Government have been taking, and are taking all possible steps to see that the process of expedition is realised, and the State Governments do not take more time. But there are some inevitable delays as a result of making enquiries and not getting answers from the parties themselves. Therefore, Government cannot do more than what they are doing. I assure the House that we are looking into the matter and are trying to do our best.

**Shri P C Bose:** May I know whether the iron and manganese ores produced in this area are exported out of India, or are they used to meet local needs?

**Shri K D Malaviya:** I have no information about it at present.

#### Gold in Keonjhar District

\*1097. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 107 on the 17th July, 1957 and state

(a) the date of the discovery of gold in Keonjhar District, and

(b) the reasons, why the investigation has not made any progress?

**The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das):** (a) The occurrence of gold in Keonjhar District has been known for a long time but no information is available regarding the specific date or period when the occurrence was discovered.

(b) The investigation is not considered important enough to be given priority over other investigations of urgent nature included in the Second Five Year Plan of the Bureau.

**Shri Supakar:** May I know if the Government carried on any investigation in this area?

**Shri M. M. Das:** Yes, Sir, the Indian Bureau of Mines carried on preliminary investigations in the year 1953-54?

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is Government aware that we have just only four gold mines in Mysore and two in other parts of India and as such we are hard up for more mines for extracting gold, and the total amount of gold extracted annually is just 200,000 ounces? I want to know why the Government are not straining every nerve to find out more mines and exploit them?

**Mr Speaker:** Even where there is no gold?

**Shri Alva:** He admitted that it is there.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon Members are only giving suggestions as to what the Government are to do, and are not eliciting information.

**Shri Supakar:** May I know if the Government is becoming more spiritual-minded so as not to push through this investigation?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Member knows whether they are spiritual or not spiritual. We will go to the next question—1099, Shri J R Mehta.

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\*1099 **Shri J. R. Mehta.** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the marked disparities in