

**Minerals in A.P.**

3346. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to explore mineral wealth in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to simplify clearance procedure for encouraging mining in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of survey carried out by Geological Survey of India and other agencies in Andhra Pradesh, the following significant mineral reserves have been estimated:-

Minerals	Reserves
Gold	0.15 Million tonnes
Diamond	10 Kimberlite
Coal	134.50 Million tonnes

**Basemetal :** Investigation for Base-Metal has been carried out and estimation of reserves has not been made so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To encourage investment in the mining sector, under the New National Mineral Policy announced in March, 1993, 13 minerals hitherto reserved exclusively or predominantly for state exploitation have been dereserved for investment by private sector. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has also been amended accordingly in 1994.

[Translation]

**Rural Development Schemes by Madhya Pradesh Government**

3347. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Rural Development Schemes sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) whether a number of schemes have been rejected by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). Five schemes under Rural Water Supply Programme have been sent by the State of Madhya Pradesh to the Centre for raising ground water level in some districts of Madhya Pradesh. These schemes have been sent to the Central Ground Water Board for technical scrutiny.

[English]

**Coal and Iron Ore from Australia**

3348. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to acquire coal and iron ore from Australia;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard have been signed;

(c) if so, whether some of the private steel manufacturing companies have decided to increase their steel making capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir. However, Steel Authority of India Limited and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are importing coking coal from Australia.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

**Rural Sanitation Programme**

3349. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Sanitation Programme Sponsored by the Union Government is running smoothly in the country particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the projects completed during the last three years and during the current year so far;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any representation in this regard during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these representations are likely to be disposed of and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b). The progress of