

stoppage of the Bandra Express at Jagatbela Railway station with a view to provide facility to the passengers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Not justified.

#### **Stoppage to Sambalpur Hirakud Express at Khurai**

6388. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide stoppage to Sambalpur Hirakud Express at Khurai and Sadan Express at Mandi Bamora Railway Stations;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Lack of justification.

#### **Policy Regarding Exploration of Minerals**

6389. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate new gold and diamond mining Policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the salient features of the policy regarding exploitation of minerals particularly gold and diamond bearing areas;

(d) the details of the potential areas recovered so far;

(e) whether any scheme has been prepared to exploit these areas for export earning;

(f) whether foreign technology have been adopted to modernise the obsolete, closed and many years old mines in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages induction of

foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals to be pursued. Foreign equity investment in joint ventures in mining promoted by Indian companies would be encouraged. While foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50%, this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral necessary for industry. Enhanced equity holding can also be considered on case to case basis. In line with the policy prescription, 13 minerals, including gold and diamond, hitherto exclusively reserved for public sector, have been thrown open for private sector, including foreign investment. The Central Government has issued guidelines for grant of large areas for aerial prospecting. The grant of mineral concessions for minerals including gold and diamond is governed by the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The Act and the Rules have been amended to give effect to the policy pronouncements.

(d) As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, the potential areas discovered are as under:

#### **For Gold**

- (i) Ajjanahalli and Kempinkote area in Karnataka.
- (ii) Bhukia Jagpura area in Banswara distt. Rajasthan.
- (iii) Govanikonda block in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) Hira Budhini block, Hutti Muski Schist belt and Chinmulgund area in Karnataka.
- (v) Gurharpahar west block in Sidhi distt., Madhya Pradesh.
- (vi) Koitari, Adyal and Parsodi in Nagpur-Bhandara-Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra.
- (vii) Saobal and Maski, Surapalli, Jaligere and Saratur. G.K. Halli, Thippagondenahalli, Kunchiganahalli and Dangaradagani area in Karnataka State.

#### **For Diamond**

- (i) Kothapalli block in Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) Catchment area of Ib, Maini, Mand and Tald-Utiala rivers of Bastar/Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

(e) Grant of prospecting licences/mining leases for minerals including gold and diamond for exploitation is governed by provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. The export is guided by the provisions of the Export-Import Policy of the country.

(f) and (g) Induction of foreign technology for such mines depends on the techno-economic judgement of the concerned organisations.