

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Occurrences of granite have been reported in Deoghar, Godda and Bhagalpur districts where reserves of 19 million cu.m have been estimated. Black stone ballast/bouldars occur in Pakud areas of Sahibganj district.

As per information available, Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation, a State Public Sector Undertaking has a proposal to set up a processing plant in the joint sector at Daltonganj in Palameu district for manufacture of export quality pink granite blocks.

(c) As per information available, 6,14,767 tonnes of granite was exported during 1990-91 from India. Principal markets for Indian rough and cut blocks of granite are Japan, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Singapore while the principal markets for polished granite are UK, USA, USSR, Japan, Germany and Netherlands. Besides Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAF, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand etc. also important granite from India. The value of exports of granite in 1990-91 was approximately Rs. 198 crores.

While royalty and the levies on granite accrue to concerned State Governments, earnings from exports go to the individual exporters of granite.

(d) to (f): Since granite is a minor mineral, the development of granite deposits is the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Government have given incentives for encouraging exports of granite like providing export finance at concessional interest, waiving of customs and excise duties on equipments required for 100% Export Oriented Units and concession from payment of tax under the income tax Act.

Restructuring of ONGC

2368. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) There have been many suggestions but no formal decision to restructure the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been taken by the Government.

Procurement of Raw Cashewnuts by NAFED

2369. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED propose to procure raw cashewnuts from cashew growers in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of cashewnuts proposed to be procured during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPLLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Kerala Raw Cashewnut (Procurement & Distribution) Act, 1981, only a Cooperative Society registered under the Kerala Cooperative Society Act, 1969 can

be appointed as the Agent or Sub-Agent of the State Government to purchase raw cashewnuts. Therefore, NAFED can not procure raw cashewnuts from cashew growers of Kerala.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Desiltation of Rivers

2370. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rivers in respect of which desiltation work was undertaken during 1990-91;

(b) whether the desiltation work was undertaken in respect of rivers in Bihar during the said period; and

(c) if so, the names of such rivers and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Desiltation work for Navigation purposes have ben undertaken on rive Ganges and Brahmaputra during 1990-91.

(b) Desiltation work on river Ganges in the Ballia-Patna and Patna-Farakka reaches were undertaken for maintaining a depth of 1.5 metre to 2 metres of water in the channel during the year 1990-91.

(c) In the Farakka-Patna stretch dredging at 3 critical shoals and bandalling at 11 shoals were carried out while in the Patna-Ballia stretch bandalling was carried out at 4 shoals.

Safety Measures for Coal Mine Workers

2371. DR. G.L.KANAUJIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out any plan for the safety of the coal mine workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B.NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b): To ensure safety of coal miners, the mines are run strictly as per provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed there-under. In addition thereto there is a regular system of monitoring & review of the safety situation through Pit Safety Committee at Unit level, Tripartite Committee at the Area & Company level, Safety Board at Coal India & Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines at Government level. Workman Inspector's are appointed in all mines, who report to the management and to the Director General of Mines Safety. The miners are provided with intrinsically safe electrical appliances and other safety gears to work with. The Coal Companies also implement the recommendations/guidelines laid down by the periodical Safety Conferences for Improving safety in mines.

Central State Farm Suratgarh

2372. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under the Central State Farm, Suratgarh;

(b) the profit/loss made during last two years by the Farm; and

(c) the area of land lying uncultivated during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Total area of land of Central State Farm, Suratgarh is about 6293 hectares.