

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The required details are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 11120/85]

Availability of Precious Stones and Diamonds in Nandigama Taluk, Krishna District (Andhra Pradesh)

6084. SHRI V. SODHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that precious stones and diamonds are available in the lands of some villages in Nandigama Taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to collect the soil containing the precious stones/diamonds and separate them from soil ; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme, cost of the project and the details of future projections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A special project was started in 1980 to assess the potentiality of diamondiferous gravel in Krishna district. So far nearly 3,000 cu. m. of gravels have been treated in a specially designed plant and some diamonds have been recovered. Further work is in progress and therefore the total cost of the project cannot be given at this stage.

Sale of Tea Companies and Tea Gardens Owned by Foreigners

6085. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the number of tea companies and gardens which are owned by foreigners, partly or wholly and have been purchased by Indians or non-resident Indians during the last ten years ;

(b) the total plantation area and the number of workers involved in the above transfer of ownership ; and

(c) the details regarding the price at which the above companies and gardens have been sold ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1121/85]

(b) The total plantation area involved was of the order of 1.20 lakh hectares. The number of workers involved would be of the order of 3 lakhs.

Interim Relief to Public Sector Undertakings Employees

6086. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of public sector undertakings where interim relief has not been paid so far;

(b) the justification of non-payment of interim-relief to employees of those public sector undertakings whose wages are not more than those of Government employees; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the various representations of Unions/Associations in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) to (c). There are about 70 public enter-