

for bottling coconut water from mature nuts, which is a by-product, by the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum and has already been offered to a firm for commercial use.

#### **Research on Bottling of Sweet Toddy**

730. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to conduct research for the bottling of sweet toddy which does not contain alcohol, so as to keep it fresh without fermentation ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Work has already been carried out earlier in India and Sri Lanka using chemical preservatives and also by heat sterilisation.

#### **Manufacture of Utensils and Appliances by SAIL**

7310. SHRIMATI BASAVRAJESWARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited is manufacturing utensils and appliances ;

(b) if so, the type of utensils and appliances manufactured ; and

(c) whether there will be any difference in quality and price of such utensils manufactured by private sector and public sector undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited is not manufacturing utensils and appliances. However, for promoting sale of cold rolled stainless steel produced by the Salem Steel Plant, SAIL has appointed certain SSI Units to convert Salem

stainless steel sheets/coils into utensils such as Dinner Sets and other table-ware. These utensils are then marketed by SAIL.

(c) As the quantity of Salem stainless steel is comparable to international standards and is the best in the country, the utensils made out of this will be of superior quality. One of the objectives behind launching of these quality products is to make them available in the domestic market at a reasonable price and through such a measure, active demand stimulation also.

#### **Ore Production at Donimalai Unit of NMDC**

7313. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of ore produced by the Donimalai unit of the National Mineral Development Corporation located in Bellary district, Karnataka during the last one year ;

(b) whether any proposals are pending before Government for the expansion of the said unit during this year ; and

(c) the total labour strength at present in Donimalai mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The total quantity of ore produced by the Donimalai unit of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) during the last year was 23.30 lakh tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As on 31.3.1986, the total staff strength in the Donimalai unit of the National Mineral Development Corporation was 1456 comprising 104 executives and 1352 non-executives.

#### **Kudremukh Iron Ore Project**

7314. KUMARI D.K. THARADEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) when the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project was set up and at what cost ; and

(b) the financial investment and return till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Project was set up in April, 1976. The sanctioned capital cost estimates of the Project was Rs. 546.80 crores.

(b) The actual expenditure incurred on the Project is Rs. 516.87 crores. The Project was implemented under an agreement with Iran for supply of iron ore concentrate to the steel mills of Iran over a period of 21 years at the rate of 7.5 million tonnes per year. Since Iran did not fulfill the contract, and since the product was tailor-made for Iran, the company has had to identify alternate buyers. As a result of the poor capacity utilisation the Company has been incurring losses.

#### **Shrimp Catches by Foreign Trawlers**

7315. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are empowered under existing Maritime laws to cancel rights of foreign charter fishing vessels if they fish for shrimp ;

(b) whether Government are aware that foreign charter boats are carrying away shrimp from our waters ; and

(c) the steps taken to cancel such charter rights to save our fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). As per the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Rules, 1982, the chartered foreign fishing vessels are prohibited from undertaking shrimping operation for the exploitation of coastal shrimp. Violation of the rules is punishable with fine as well as cancellation of charter permits. There is no ban on the chartered vessels to exploit

the deep sea shrimp. No reports of large shrimp catch in chartered vessels have been received.

(c) The area of operation of the chartered vessels specified by the Government ensures that the operation of these vessels does not clash with the interests of traditional fishermen and small mechanised boat operators. Cancellation of charter permits can be done only for contravention of the relevant provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and the Rules made thereunder.

#### **Withdrawal of Funding Support from SAIL**

7316. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw their investment funding support and interest holidays from Steel Authority of India ;

(b) whether there is any indication as to how much surplus SAIL will have to create during 1986-87 in order to stand on its own ; and

(c) the measures being adopted by the public sector steel industry to deal with and come out of financial problems, plant-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) ; (a) and (b). The 1986-87 approved capital schemes programme of SAIL of 540.96 crores will not require any budgetary support from Government. This programme is planned to be financed by SAIL's internal resources (Rs. 240.96 crores) and through loans from the Steel Development Fund (Rs. 300 crores).

(c) In order to make steel plants more profitable and enable generation of the required quantum of surplus to meet future capital expenditure requirements on various capital schemes, the following measures have been/are being taken :—

(i) Increase in total production and also production of demand orien-