

(c) Production of oilseeds during 1989-90 and 1990-91 was 16.75 and 19.10 million tonnes respectively. It is still somewhat early to arrive at firm estimates of the current kharif production.

(d) To increase the production of oilseeds, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMO & P) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) in 18 important states of the country. The assistance is provided to the farmers through State Governments for the production and distribution of seeds, Rhizobium culture, Plant Protection chemicals and equipments, farm implements, Gypsum and pyrites and for organising demonstrations etc. under the Scheme.

[English]

Statement of Pakistan of Babri Masjid Issue

1221. SHRI KULEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent statement issued by the Foreign Office of the Government of Pakistan on the situation in Ayodhya and Babri Masjid;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals and their shrines in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's regret and deep concern was conveyed to the Government of Pakistan. Such attempts to interfere in our internal affairs are a violation of the universally accepted norms of Inter-State conduct and of the Simla Agreement are unacceptable.

(c) and (d). It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights, interests and places or religious worship of the minority communities in that country.

Government are of the view that neither India nor Pakistan should interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Supply of Copper Rods to Small Scale Units

1222. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "HCL supply delay hits copper consuming SSIs of the South" appearing in the Economic Times of September 23, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in supply of copper rods to small scale units; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to non-availability of free foreign exchange, import of copper cathodes could not be arranged, which very adversely affected the production of copper rod in the Talaja Plant of Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL). Coupled with the restricted production at the Talaja Copper Rod Plant, a consignment of

about 2000 tonnes of continuous cast copper wire rods returned after toll smelting of copper concentrates abroad arrived at Madras port in a slightly fire damaged condition. Due to all these unforeseen reasons HCL could not fulfil its commitment, to the customers.

(c) HCL has taken steps to meet the commitments from its own production.

Opencast mining projects at Ananta and Khadia

1223. SHRICHETANP.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to

state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved opencast mining projects at Ananta and Khadia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on each of those projects; and

(d) the time by which the production is likely to be started in those projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Both these projects have been sanctioned by the Government. Some of salient details are given below:-

<i>Item Company</i>	<i>Ananta OCP SECL</i>	<i>Khadia OCP NCL</i>
Capital cost (Rs. crores)	156.49	538.75
Capacity	4 mtpa	4 mtpa
Mineable reserves	68.68 mt	88.00mt
Average stripping ratio	0.51 cu. m.per tonne	4.08 cu. m.per tonne
Grade of Coal	F	E
O.M.S.	12.38 tonnes	10.00 tonnes

Both these mines are expected to contribute to coal production during the current year (1991-92).

Gold Mines

1224. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the gold mines where the cost of extracting gold is much higher

than its market value; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHIR BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The details of highly uneconomic gold mines which belong to Bharat Gold Mines Limited and the Cost of extracting gold is given below: