

profits will not be made for an initial period of 7 years. The restaurants may also be established through joint ventures between the subsidiary and Indian entrepreneurs and also through Indian franchises.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). This Ministry is not aware whether any research is underway to study the impact of multinationals on the soft drink market. However, the multi-nationals have to compete with the existing manufacturers.

[*Translation*]

Import Price of Copper

1893. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of copper has been made duty free;

(b) whether the accumulated price system of Copper has been abolished;

(c) the names of Institutions involved in mining and production of copper in India;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix the import price and distribution of copper through Hindustan Copper Limited;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM
SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The administered pricing policy of copper has been discontinued since March, 1992.

(c) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the Central Government, is engaged in mining of copper ores and production of refined copper metal. Besides HCL, Hutti Gold Mines Company LTD., a Public Sector Undertaking under the State Government of Karnataka and Sikkim Mining Corporation, a joint venture of Government of Sikkim and the Central Government are also engaged in mining of copper ores and production of copper concentrates. The copper concentrates produced by them are sent to HCL production of refined copper.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise

[*English*]

Purchase Scandal in Mineral Explorations Corporation

1894. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN
THORAT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-crore purchase scandal in the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., has recently come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of the irregularities committed and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE