

Amendment of Essential Commodities Act to deal with Economic Offenders

1453. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Essential Commodities Act to deal sternly with the economic offenders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revision of Gold Policy

1454. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revise the gold policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). The Report of the Committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Governor, Reserve Bank of India to review the gold policy in all its aspects has been received and is under the examination of the Government. Government have no intention of resuming the sale of gold.

Expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant

1455. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been sought for the purpose from any foreign country; and

(d) if so, what is the name of the country and the details of the assistance sought?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant from 1.7 million tonnes to 4.0 million tonnes is under consideration. A proposal for its further expansion from 4.0 to 4.75 million tonnes is under consideration of Government. Moreover, a Detailed Project Report for raising its capacity further to 5.5 million tonnes is also under preparation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Feasibility Report on free trade zone at Salt Lake Area

1456. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade Development Authority prepared any feasibility report on the free trade zone at Salt Lake Area, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken up to date on the basis of that report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report prepared in 1975 proposed setting up of a multi product zone. The products selected for manufacture in the zone were Stainless Steel Cutlery, Miniature Bulbs, integrated Circuits, Readymade Gar-