

establishment of an integrated steel plant on a Turn-key basis with complete financing by the Collaborators; and

(b) if so, which are the foreign collaborators and what are their terms and conditions and the places they have proposed for location?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have been exploring the possibilities of setting up a new steel plant with technical and financial assistance from some of the developed countries. As a result of the discussions held in this regard, concrete proposals have been received from M/s. Davy International of U.K. and M/s. Mannesmann Demag of West Germany. For the purpose of preparing the offers, Paradip has been assumed by both the parties as the tentative location. However, these proposals including the question of final location as well as other terms and conditions require technical and financial evaluation and will have to be negotiated further with the parties concerned before a final decision can be taken. In view of these considerations, it will be premature to give any further details thereof at this stage.

Availability of rich bauxite ores in Gandhamaidan hills, Orissa

2257. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the availability of rich bauxite ores in Gandhamaidan hill range in Sambalpur District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to ensure the utilisation of these ore reserves?

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

Large bauxite deposits have been located in Gandhamaidan Plateau in Bolangir-Sambalpur districts of Orissa. M/s. Bharat Aluminium Company (a Government of India Undertaking) and M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation (a State Government Undertaking) have already applied for mining leases in the area for exploitation of these deposits.

Establishment of a concentrator in Sargipali, Orissa

2258. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Zinc Limited has sought clearance of the Public Investment Board for establishment of a concentrator with a feed capacity of 750 tonnes per day in Sargipali in Sundergarh District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, when the decision of the Central Government is expected to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Examination by the Government of the Project Report submitted by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. in 1975 to develop a mine for production of 750 tonnes of ore per day with matching beneficiation facilities, indicated that the project was not commercially viable on the international price of lead then prevailing and was marginally viable on domestic prices. Subsequent feasibility study, however, revealed that the project at an operating level of 500 tonnes per day may be viable. Accordingly, based on the additional exploration data, a revised Project Report prepared by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. was submitted to Government in April, 1978. The revised Project Report envisaged production of 500 tonnes of ore per day with matching beneficiation facilities. The project has been approved by Government on the recommendations of the Public Invest-

ment Board in January, 1979 with following main parameters:—

- (i) Capital cost . Rs. 11.88 crores.
- (ii) Annual ore production capacity. . 1,50,000 tonnes.
- (iii) Annual concentrates production—
- a. Lead concentrate 11,000 tonnes.
- b. Copper concentrate . . . 1,288 tonnes.
- (iv) Life of the project. . . 14 years.

Work is in progress on ground to implement the project.

Unauthorised exploitation of precious stone in Orissa

2259. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the availability of the precious stones in some areas of Bolangir District in Orissa and if so, what steps the Central Government have taken to prevent its unauthorised exploitation by some private parties; and

(b) whether the Government of India are proposing to work out these areas for commercial purposes in collaboration with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Information is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in foreign trade of chromite ores

2260. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for gradual decline of foreign trade of chromite ores with other countries; and

(b) whether levy of excessive export duty in chromite ores by Government is one of the reasons and if so, whether Government propose to abolish the export levy to boost up its export trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Chrome ore exports have shown a gradual increase from 1977 onwards.

(b) Question does not arise.

Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch (M.P.)

2261. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there were allegations of irregularity in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory at Neemuch in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the matter and taken necessary action against the persons involved in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation dated 6-11-78 alleging certain irregularities in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch, was received from the Government Opium and Alkaloid Employees Sangh, Neemuch.

(b) The allegations made in the aforesaid representation were looked into. It was reported that the allegation relating to appointment of two persons against vacancies reserved for Schedule Tribes, on production of false certificates, was on investigation found be correct. While one of the person resigned on 11-4-79, the services of the second person were terminated with effect from 11-6-79. The allegations regarding other irregularities have not been substantiated.