

[English]

Salem Steel Plant

346. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether the Government propose to go ahead with the backward integration programme of Salem Steel Plant; and to include the same in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): The question of establishing facilities for hot rolling of stainless steel slabs at the most technologically suitable site is presently under consideration of the Government. In case these facilities are established at SSP, it will result in backward integration of the plant. The facility is proposed to be set up in the VIII Plan period.

Plans to Improve Exports

347. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state the plans of Government to improve the export performance and to make the balance of payments situation favourable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): The plans of Government to improve export performance include making exports commercially viable, upgrading industrial capability, ensuring the supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infrastructural areas such as power, and simplifying the procedures. To tide over the difficult balance of payment situation, the Government has formulated a number of measures to generate additional exports with emphasis on higher value added items, contain

non-essential imports, and augment foreign exchange flows through higher receipts from invisibles.

Exploration of Tungsten

348. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost exploration of Tungsten in Kuhl-Taluka in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Detailed Exploration of the Khobna Tungsten deposit in Kuhl Taluka in Maharashtra has been taken up by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited.

Setting up Mini Steel Plants in Nagpur

349. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up mini steel plants in Nagpur in Maharashtra State during the Eighth plan period; and

(b) if so, the locations where these plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand and availability of steel

350. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: