

[English]

Licence for Mining of Correndem in M.P.

7125. SHRICHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Will the Minister of mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantity of Correndem have been found in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of Correndem available there;

(c) the number of applications received by the Government for mining licence of Correndem; and

(d) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV). (a) and (b) Occurrence of Corundum mineral have been reported from Kuchnur, Chillamarka, Dampayi, Dhangoul and Pekapalli area of Bhopal-pattanam Tehsil of Bastar District. Estimated recoverable reserves are reported to be around 25 tonnes.

(c) and (d) One application for prospecting licence has been received. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is yet to take a decision in the matter.

Selection of Indian and foreign Firms for Steel Sector

7126. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian and foreign firms selected for participating in the public sector steel units;

(b) the criteria laid down for their selection; and

(c) the steel plants in which these firms are likely to participate and the level of their participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (c) Selection of a party for participation in the equity and management of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) is presently under consideration. The basic objective is modernisation and expansion of IISCO to a crude steel capacity of 1.5 MTPA in a cost and time effective manner.

(b) The criteria adopted by Committee of Experts (COE) for evaluation of offers include:

(i) Project cost and specific investment;

(ii) technological viability of the schemes envisaged;

(iii) reliability of the financing plans;

(iv) financial viability of the modernised steel works as also the time frame in which the current operations would be made viable;

(v) purchase consideration offered; and

(vi) sacrifices expected of SAIL/Government.

[Translation]

Funds for welfare of handicapped

7127. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the grants-in-aid provided to each Voluntary Organisation providing education, training rehabilitation facilities, Aids and appliances to disabled persons in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the amount;