

Smuggling of Gold From Hatti Gold Mines

4832. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the output of gold in Hatti Gold Mines during 1984-85;

(b) whether gold is being illegally smuggled from the mines;

(c) if so, the number of cases detected so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to tighten the security at the Hatti Gold Mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The output of gold in Hatti Gold Mines during 1984-85 is 8,59,709

(b) Gold smuggling and thefts take place to some extent in every gold mining venture all over the world. The same is the case in Hatti Gold Mines also. However, it is not on a large scale and that such smuggling takes place when rich ore is struck.

(c) The number of cases detected during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85 was 4 and 6 respectively and suitable action was taken.

(d) The strength of the security force which was 107 in the year 1979 has now been increased to 181, including women searchers. A system of sending undergrounds squads into the mine where rich areas are being worked to check smuggling activities have also been started. A parameter fencing wall of 3 meters height with barbed wire fencing on the top for further security of the mining area has been put up. Besides all these, a closed circuit television network in the Grinding Section of the Mill covering Grinding Section and James Tables has also been installed to monitor the work going on in this Section round-the-clock so that

there is hardly any chance of smuggling gold from this particularly vulnerable Section.

India Failed to Get Overseas Construction Projects in Middle East/Gulf Countries

4833. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has failed to get major new overseas construction projects in the middle East/Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, Indian companies have been securing overseas construction projects in the Middle East/Gulf countries but this has been a decline in orders for such contracts in the recent past. The major reasons for the decline are :

- (i) Long drawn-out Iran-Iraq war resulting in reduction of contracts in Iraq which has been our major Market.
- (ii) Fall in oil revenues leading to slowing down of construction activities in these countries.
- (iii) Increased competition from capital surplus countries which are offering easy financial terms.

Promotion of Textile Industries in West Bengal in Seventh Plan

4834. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to promote textile industries in West Bengal during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the details thereof ?