

note of the possibility of the destruction of rare herbs and plants having high medicinal value due to mining activities of BALCO (Bharat Aluminium Company) on Gandhamardan Hills in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Out of a total forest area of about 20,000 hectares of gandhamardan Hill range, only an area of 162 hectares would be required for the Gandhamardan Project of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO). Necessary clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been duly obtained by BALCO. The vegetation on bauxite bearing area on top of Gandhamardan Hill Plateau, consists of tall grasses and shrubs and there is an occasional tree and limited forest growth. The herbs are reported to occur only on the slopes which will not be directly covered by mining operations. The Department of Environment, Government of India granted provisional clearance for this Project to BALCO pending preparation of the Environment Management Plan. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited, a public sector consultancy organisation has prepared the Environment Management Plan which makes detailed provision for dust control, construction of peripheral barrier leaving a strip of unmined area along the fringe of the Project site to prevent spillage of the mining waste outside the active mining zone, and for retention of rain water within the pit. The final environmental clearance is awaited by BALCO.

Exemption from ESI Scheme

506. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain workers' organisations have requested for exemption from Employees State Insurance Scheme in view of general dissatisfaction with the service and long distances between Employees State Insurance Scheme units and

Workers' factories; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Employees Association, Kolar Gold Fields requesting for grant of exemption from the operation of the ESI Scheme. Their representation is under consideration.

Publication of employment news in different languages

507. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the languages in which "Employment News" is brought out; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring out the journal in various regional languages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) "Employment News" is brought out in three languages, viz., English, Hindi and Urdu

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Employment in private sector through employment exchanges

508. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector units do not honour candidates from the employment exchanges and recruit employees at will, and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to ask the private sector to accept certain quota of candidates as