

[English]

**Quantum of Iron Ore Deposits**

664. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of total quantum of iron ore deposits in different States;

(b) if so, the total quantum of iron ore deposits found in Orissa (size and area-wise);

(c) the steps being taken for the proper exploitation and development of the iron ore deposits in Orissa; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total estimated iron ore deposits in Orissa are about 3124 million tonnes. The District-wise break-up is as under:-

Keonjhar	—	1453 million tonnes.
Sundargarh	—	827 million tonnes.
Sundargarh	—	764 million tonnes.
Keonjhar Joint Sector		
Koraput	—	3 million tonnes.
Mayurbhanj	—	16 million tonnes.
Sambalpur	—	50 million tonnes.
Dhenkanal	—	1 million tonnes.
Cuttack	—	10 million tonnes.

(Figures - approximate)

The total reserves in free-hold areas are about 407 million tonnes and under lease-hold areas about 2717 million tonnes.

(c) and (d). Most of the mines in the public-sector are already working with modern mining methods for proper exploitation of the deposits. A large number of mines in the private sector are also functioning in Orissa. Iron ore produced in this area is being used indigenously and for exports. With a view to facilitate more exports of iron ore from this sector, a proposal has been received to deepen the Paradip port to accommodate larger vessels.

**Proposal to Retain Aroor Bypass to Cochin Port Stretch of the Road as National Highway Loop Road**

665. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the construction of the Cochin Bypass connecting Aroor with Edapally in Kerala, the original road from Aroor Bypass point to the Cochin port will not form part of the National Highway;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to retain this portion of the road as a