

at the cut off grade of 0.7% nickel. Out of this 154.50 million tonnes of 1.05% nickel are located in the Sukinda area, Cuttack Distt. of Orissa.

In April, 1974, sanction was accorded for setting up a 4,800 tonnes per annum nickel and 200 tonnes per annum cobalt extraction plant based on Sukinda Nickel deposit. The technology, when tried on a pilot plant scale, did not yield satisfactory results. It, therefore, became necessary to re-evaluate the available data. The evaluation undertaken revealed the need for additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work before preparation of a feasibility report. It was found that the cost of carrying out further studies itself required would be about Rs. 48.71 crores. In view of adverse economics of producing nickel at Sukinda and severe constraints on resources, the project is not being pursued.

Hindustan Zinc Ltd. is setting up a plant for extraction of cobalt from Beta Cake which is a residue from the Zinc Smelter. The plant is expected to be commissioned by January, 1990.

#### **Lack of Drinking water Facilities at Historical Places**

4744. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lack of drinking water facility at historical places in Delhi and other parts of the country which creates great problems to the visitors ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove the problem in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Drinking water facility exists at all the important centrally protected monuments.

#### **Acres under Cashewnut Cultivation**

4745. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total acreage of land under cashewnut cultivation in the country ;

(b) the average yield per hectare ;

(c) the quantity of raw nuts imported last year ;

(d) whether Union Government are aware of the recent procurement policy of the Government of Kerala which is detrimental to the farmers interests ; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b) The area under cashewnut cultivation in the country during the year 1985-86 was provisionally assessed at 5.18 lakh hectares and the yield at 452 kgs. per hectare.

(c) A quantity of 44.9 thousand tonnes (provisional) of cashewnut was imported during 1987-88.

(d) and (e) The Government of Kerala have initiated a monopoly procurement policy for cashewnut which would not be detrimental to the farmers interests.

#### **Amount Pending with GIC as dues of Farmers under Crop Insurance Scheme**

4746 SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount pending with the General Insurance Corporation as the dues of the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to see that the insured and assured amount is paid to farmers immediately ?