

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to set up a pilot project to produce oil and other products from coal for which West Bengal Government requested the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of the said proposal; and

(d) the reasons for delay to clear the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :  
(a) to (c) The proposal of West Bengal Govt. for preparation of "Techno-Economic Feasibility Report" was recommended by Government of India for United Nations Development Programme assistance. This project has been taken up and is under implementation by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

Setting up of any such plant would arise only after the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report becomes available.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Shortage of Small Coins in Raniganj, West Bengal

325. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints of acute shortage of small coins and low denomination notes in Raniganj area of West Bengal and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There has been reports regarding shortage of small coins and currency notes of

low denominations from certain parts of the country including Raniganj area of West Bengal.

(b) Government have taken various steps to meet the demand of coins and currency notes. Incentive schemes alongwith the increased working hours have been introduced in all the three Mints, i.e. Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad and two Currency Note Presses at Nasik Road and Dewas. As part of modernisation and expansion scheme, twenty two new coining presses are being procured for the three Mints and two production lines at Currency Note Press, Nasik Road and balancing equipments for the Bank Note Press, Dewas are being installed. A second shift in the Calcutta Mint is being introduced. It has also been decided to establish a new Mint and a new Currency Note Printing Press and steps are being taken to implement this decision.

As a result of the improvement in production of small coins and Currency and Bank Notes, the Reserve Bank of India has stepped up releases of these coins and currency notes in the various regions including West Bengal consistent with the available supplies.

#### Import of Magnesite

326. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :  
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have to import sizeable quantity of magnesite to meet the country's demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of magnesite imported during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 and the amount of foreign exchange spent during the period;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from private enterprises to explore the possibility of finding raw magnesite in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and