

Under an agreement signed between the Government of India and Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company Ltd. (CPMO), the Government of India has purchased 49 per cent of the shares of Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. (MOIL) held by CPMO, against a payment of Rs. 72,60,613.00. The ultimate proportion of shares to be held by the Government of India. State Government of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will be as under:—

Government of India	51 ⁰ / ₁₀₀
Government of Maharashtra	24.5 ⁰ / ₁₀₀
Government of Madhya Pradesh	24.5 ⁰ / ₁₀₀

(b) The total assets of the company as per the audited Balance Sheet on 31-3-1977 were valued at Rs. 8,73,49,556.00.

Postal Stamp Depot in H.P.

2141. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a postal stamp depot in Himachal Pradesh for philatelic enthusiasts;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKIIDEO SA1): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) We have opened a Postal Stamp Depot at Ludhiana to cater to the needs of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. To start with the Depot is looking to the requirements of Punjab State only and the facility will be gradually extended to other states also viz. Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Outstanding claims against Portuguese

2142. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the claims by individuals and organisations of this country outstanding against the Portu-

guese Government and Portuguese Institutions such as Banco Nacional Ultramarino; and

(b) what specific steps have been taken towards the settlement of those claims since reply to Unstarred Question No. 370 on the 7th July, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) From available figures it has been estimated that the claims could approximately amount to the order of 19 crores of rupees. It has proved very difficult to obtain precise data on individual claims since all the records are not available in respect of ornaments pledged to banks, title deeds, and deposits of currency notes etc.

(b) The various Ministries and Departments concerned are being consulted and an inter-Ministerial meeting is to be held shortly both to verify the claims so far collected and to consider the procedure or resolving the issue.

Skilled Workers on Daily Wages in Mineral Exploration Corporation

2143. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there are many temporary skilled workers drawing only Rs. 6.75 per day in various categories for more than four years or so, in Bankola and Joalbhanga drilling camps of Mineral Exploration Corporation;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make them permanent in their respective categories; and

(c) whether, it is also a fact, that in case of recruitment and promotion, corrupt practices are prevalent in the various drilling camps of Mineral Exploration Corporation in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Out of 165 contingent workers in Bankola and Joalbhanga drilling