

The quantity and value of chomite exports during the last three years is given, below:

Year	Quantity (in, 000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1974-75	305.8	925.00
1975-76	334.4	2,462.00
1976-77	282.97	6,670.00

Kudremukh Iron Ore Project

1399. SHRI MATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works on the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project is in progress on schedule; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the project schedule, construction of the project proper is to be completed by the end of December, 1979 and shipment of concentrate to Iran is to commence by the end of August, 1980. Most of the major items of equipment needed have been ordered. Civil engineering work is in progress in various areas such as crushers, concentrator plant, ware-house, tailings dam etc. Erection of steel structures for the concentrator plant building and the ware house is also well under way.

Discussion held with Foreign Minister of Thailand

1400. SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his visit to Thailand he had discussions with the

Foreign Minister on assistance and technical training facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Foreign Minister has not visited Thailand.

(b) Does not arise.

कोलार सोने के खानों के श्रमिकों में बेरोजगारी का भय और असंतोष

1401. श्री नटवर लाल बी० परमार : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोलार सोने की खानों में उत्पादन उनके निरन्तर कम होने और उनके बन्द होने की आशंका से वहाँ काम करने वाले श्रमिकों में बेरोजगारी का भय और असंतोष पैदा हो रहा है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ तो इन श्रमिकों को वैकल्पिक काम देने के लिए क्या योजनाएँ बनाई जा रही हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री करिया मुण्डा) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) मवाल नहीं उठता ।

Extension of Health Insurance Scheme

1402. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for extending the Health Insurance Scheme to the general public as well as to the rural and urban population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) what is the present scheme in operation and the details thereof; and

(e) how much amount has been spent in various States on this scheme during 1975 to February, 1978

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAG-DAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to lack of resources, both financial and administrative, it is not possible to extend the Health Insurance Scheme to cover the entire population in the country.

(d) and (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Proposal to amend Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952

1403. **SHRI L. L. KAPOOR:** Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 on the lines of section 223 etc. of the Income tax Act, 1961 providing for an independent Recovery Machinery under the supervision of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b). The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund had recommended in its 74th meeting held at Bangalore on the 5th December, 1977 that the Organisation should have its own independent Recovery Machinery under the control and supervision of the Provident Fund

Commissioners like the Income Tax Department. The proceedings of the Board have been received by Government for its consideration.

Sharing of Ganga waters during lean months

1404. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held recently in Dacca regarding implementation of Ganga water agreement between India and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The 14th Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, which has been reactivated in accordance with Article IX of the Agreement on Sharing of the Ganga Waters and on Augmenting its Flow and the status of which has now been raised to the Ministerial level, took place in Dacca from 21st January, 1978 to 23rd January, 1978.

(b) The Joint Rivers Commission decided that proposals by either side for augmenting the flow of the Ganga would be submitted by mid-March, 1978. These proposals would be studied in the next meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission with a view to formulating integrated proposals for joint study and investigation.

सहायक इंजीनियर से इंजीनियर के पद पर पदोन्नति के लिये नियम

1405. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या किसी भी कर्मचारी को तब तक पदोन्नत नहीं किया जा सकता जब तक वह किसी पद पर स्थायी न हो;