

contracts/tenders should have been registered with appropriate authorities as already provided for in the regulations

EEPC had also indicated to Steel Authority of India Limited their total requirements of steel which would be required to meet their export commitments during the year EEPC were advised as to what extent the supply could be made from domestic sources and the extent to which they would have to meet their requirements from imports

Copper Deposits in Kallur Village of Raichur District

* 3688 SHRI RAJ SHEKHAR KOLUR Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether copper ore deposits were discovered in Kallur Village of Raichur District in Karnataka, and

(b) if so the progress made for their exploration and commercial utilization may be indicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA) (a) and (b) Yes Sir The Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka have tentatively estimated 6 million tonnes of ore in the area containing 0.8 to 1.0 per cent copper They are still conducting detailed exploration in the area At this stage the question of commercial exploitation does not arise

Opening of RPO at Bangalore

3689 SHRI RAJ SHEKHAR KOLUR Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether he is aware that people of Karnataka and of the extreme South have to go either to Madras or to Bombay in connection with their passport applications and are put to considerable hardship thereby, and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to open a Regional Passport Office at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU) (a) and (b) In reply to Unstarred Question No 428 answered in this House on 25-2-1978, it was stated that a fullfledged Regional Passport Office will be opened in the State of Karnataka in the early part of the financial year 1978-79 Accordingly a Regional Passport Office was opened in Bangalore on June 12, 1978

Loss incurred by Thintani Copper Mines in Sholapur

3690 SHRI RAJ SHEKHAR KOLUR Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Thintani Copper Mines in Sholapur Taluk of Gulbarga District has incurred losses in its operations

(b) if so, the extent of the loss, and

(c) steps taken to improve the working of the project?

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

(b) The cumulative losses incurred by the Thintani Copper Project right from its inception upto 31-3-1978 are Rs 96.86 lakhs

(c) The Thintani Copper Project is under exploitation by the Hutti Gold Mines Company Ltd, an undertaking under the control of the Government of Karnataka As against the estimated average grade of the ore-body of 0.8 per cent copper content and 10 metres width, based on diamond drilling data, mine development so far has established an average grade of only 0.4 to 0.5 per cent copper content and