

1.3 lakhs tonnes; quartzite about 80 million tonnes and some occurrences of tin ore, china clay, soapstone, graphite etc.

(b) and (c). According to the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Orissa, 28 mining leases have been granted for different minerals to private parties. During 1977, 2 mines were opened and none closed. During 1978, 3 mines were closed and none opened.

Mines of Copper Ore in Balaghat District of M. P.

7348. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether project report for mining copper ore in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh has been prepared but the work is being delayed; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to start the work in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA) (a) and (b). A detailed project report for the Malanjkhanda Copper Project in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh was prepared by Soviet Consultants M/s. TSVETMETMETPROMEXPORT. The project envisages mining of copper ore and setting up of the concentrator. Government sanction for the project was given in February, 1977.

The preparatory work on the project was started in June, 1977. However, the tempo of work had to be slowed down in 1978-79 pending a review by the Planning Commission about implementation of this project, in view of the constraints on resources. The review was completed in November, 1978, and it was decided that the project should be implemented. Preparatory work on the project such as development of in-

frastructure and procurement of machinery is now in full swing and the regular mine construction is expected to commence by July, 1979.

Land of Village Nagal Raya and their New Delhi on hire with the Ministry of Defence

7349. SHRI BALAK RAM: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land measuring 18.39 acres of village Nagal Raya and Tihar, New Delhi is on hire with the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether the Government want to dehire the said land and give the possession to owners, if so, by what time; and

(c) further steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Out of 18.39 acres of hired land, 2.45 acres were dehiared and handed over to the owners in January 1975 and thereafter 15.94 acres are held by Defence Institute of Fire & Research, Ministry of Defence.

(b) Yes, Sir, sometime in January 1980.

(c) Complete the requisite formalities connected with dehiring and send necessary communication to the owners in due course to take over their land.

Survey of Minerals in Orissa

7350. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa have taken any steps for intensive and extensive survey of mineral belt for assessing the State mineral wealth;