

Article 269 of the Constitution. The administration of Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has been entrusted by law to the States. The Central Government ensures, as far as possible, co-ordination among the States in matters connected with sales tax administration and for this purpose four Regional Councils have been established under a Presidential order in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 263 of the Constitution consisting of representatives of the Central Government and State Governments to advise *inter alia*, on sales tax matters. The Central Government are also concerned with the administration of sales tax laws in the Union Territory of Delhi.

(b) There is no proposal at present for making any administrative change.

Mineral Resources in Orissa

4751. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the mineral resources so far found in Orissa and surveyed the quantity and quality of the minerals mineral-wise; and

(b) new mineral deposits located recently in Orissa are under investigation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Information is given in the attached statement.

(b) The new minerals which have been located in the State and are under investigation include Tin, Gold, Precious stones, Beryl, Graphite, Kyanite, Soapstone. Felspar and Quartzite. The reserves of these minerals are yet to be assessed. Additional deposits of Limestone, Fireclay Chinaclay have also been located in the State.

Statement

According to the State Government of Orissa, following minerals have been so far found in Orissa State:—

Name of the Minerals/Ores	Total Reserves (in million tonnes)	Quality
Iron Ore	3,500	+55% Fe.
Manganese Ore	43	+28% Mn.
Nickel Ore	107	+0.8% Ni.
Chromite	86	+38% Cr ₂ O ₃
Magnetite	14	+0.8% V ₂ O ₅
Limestone	700	All grades
Dolomite	360	17-20% MgO
Bauxite	1,277	+40% Al ₂ O ₃
Coal	Over 30,000	All grades (non-coking)
Fireclay	60	Mostly non-Plastic, pottery
Chinaclay	35	Textile, rubber and paper grades
Lead Ore	6	5.17% Pb.
Copper Ore	1.6	+0.8% Cu.
Mineral bearing sands	Over 50	Containing Ilmenite, Sillimanite, Monazite, etc.

Export of Sea Weeds

4752. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what, if any, is the work done so far by the Marine Products Export Development Authority, for the export of sea weeds; and

(b) whether it has details of the export potential of sea weeds in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal and if so, an indication thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) As the export of sea weeds is banned, no export promotional measures are taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority for sea weeds.

(b) The major sea weed growing regions in India are the coastal areas of Gujarat State from VERAVAL to OKHA sea and DWARAJAND in the Arabian Sea and of the Tamil Nadu State from Mandappam to Kanya Kunari in the Bay of Bengal where many of the economically important sea weeds occur in commercially exploitable quantities. In addition to these places, the littoral and sublittoral rocky stretches in the vicinity of Bombay, Karwar, Cannanore, Kovalum-Madras and Visakhapatnam are populated by the sea weeds.

In view of the ban on export of sea weeds the Marine Products Export Development Authority has not made any assessment of the export potential of sea weeds from India.

Refrigerated Vans acquired by Marine Products Export Development Authority

4753. SHRI NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marine Products Export Development Authority has acquired any refrigerated vans to be given on hire to sea food traders, processors or exporters and if so, the number of vans so acquired and the total cost thereof; and

(b) what are the total hire charges collected from the above vehicles and the total amount spent on their repairs so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Marine

Products Export Development Authority has acquired four refrigerated trucks to be given on hire to sea food traders, processors or exporters. Two of these trucks are deployed at Cochin. The remaining two trucks are deployed at Calcutta. The total expenditure incurred on the purchase of these trucks was Rs. 14,64,379.96.

(b) A sum of Rs. 33,462/- has been collected as hire charges of the trucks at Cochin. No amount has been spent on the repairs of these trucks so far.

Districts which have stood first in the collection of Small Savings

4754. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts which have stood first in each one of the States/Union Territories in the collection of Small Savings during 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80;

(b) the original targets for the collection of Small Savings fixed for these districts by the Government prior to the launching of the collection drive;

(c) whether there is any such incentive for such districts as stand first for more than once during the period of any three years taken together; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Budget 1980-81 assumes net small savings collections at Rs. 1100 crores. The State Governments usually fix their own targets for small savings collections for the State as a whole and for individual districts.