

(c) and (d). Most of the steel items being imported currently are produced within the country, but the supply is not adequate to match the demand in full in terms of quantity, quality, detailed specifications, sizes.

### **Kudremukh Project**

791. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been spent by Government in completing the Kudremukh Project;

(b) will Iran buy any part of the Kudremukh Project mix; if so, how much;

(c) how do Government propose to dispose of the rest of its production annually;

(d) can Kudremukh product mix be utilised internally; if so, to what extent; and

(e) has any effort been made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government have so far spent about Rs. 300 crores on the Kudremukh project.

(b) According to the existing contract, supplies of iron ore concentrate to Iran should have commenced at the rate of 3 million tonnes in the first year, 5 million tonnes in the second year and 7.50 million tonnes annually thereafter. The indications received early this year were that Iran would not be able to take more than 4.5 to 5 million tonnes annually and that off-take may not commence for another two years. All issues relating to the contract are proposed to be discussed with the Iranian Government at the earliest opportunity.

(c) to (e). Vigorous efforts are being made by Kudremukh Iron Ore

Co. to locate alternate markets for the concentrate. At the same time, the Government are examining the feasibility of setting up a pellet plant to make use of a part of the concentrate.

### **Flow of Caustic from Bharat Aluminium Plant, Korba**

792. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on 14th August, 1980 in Bharat Aluminium Plant, Korba, MP. there was a heavy flow of Caustic which caused a serious health hazards;

(b) whether Government are also aware that to stop the Caustic flow the management put 2 trucks full of aluminium power packed in bags and about one and a half tonnes of Aluminium which costs more than Rs. 50 lakhs;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into this matter;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Because of the failure of a welded plate joint of a hydrate thickener tank, some quantity of Caustic Soda spilled out on 14th August, 1980, but by putting several pumps into service the bulk of the spilled liquor was taken back into the system by prompt action and the situation was brought under control. A small quantity went out of the plant system and joined the nearby streamlet. People of the area were notified, as a measure of caution