

### Picking up of Kudremukh concentrates by South Korea

7268. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Korea have evinced interest in picking up Kudremukh concentrates on a trial basis; if so, the quantity they are expected to buy;

(b) what has been the outcome of the quantity earlier lifted by the Rumanians and whether they have placed any order for a bigger quantity; and

(c) what other sources have been tapped to locate the buyers for Kudremukh pellets abroad and their possible use in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Samples of concentrate supplied to a South Korean firm about a year ago by Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. and the test results are awaited. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. has offered to supply 13.50 million tonnes of concentrate over a five year period to this party.

(b) Shipment of the trial consignment of 50,000 tonnes of concentrate to Romania is scheduled for April/May, 1981. No shipment has so far taken place. No further order has been received from Romania.

(c) A number of prospective markets are being explored in the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, South East Asia etc. The possibility of using the pellets in Sponge iron plants in India is also being considered.

### Piling up of steel stocks with Public Sector Plants

7269. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether steel stocks have piled up with the public sector plants;

(b) if so, the accretion of stocks of saleable steel as on March 1st, 1981; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to handle the situation and dispose of these stocks?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) As on 1-3-1981, the saleable steel stocks at the public sector steel plants were 333,000 tonnes. To improve the despatches of finished products from the plants, SAIL is in constant touch with the Railways at the highest level for getting improved supply of wagons and allotments for various destinations. This matter is also being followed up by the Department of Steel with the Railways and the Cabinet Secretariat and also by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure in its periodical meetings.

### Foreign assistance for power projects in Punjab

7270. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Centre for foreign assistance for their power projects;

(b) if so, which are these projects and Government of India's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the State Government have also approached the Centre for Special financial arrangements for expediting the work of the Thein Dam Project; and

(d) if so, Centre's reaction thereto and what assistance is being rendered for the early execution of this project; the cost of which has already very much escalated due to the abnormal delay caused in its processing?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.