

cal Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and National Mineral Development Corporation Limited. These agencies have taken up on priority basis a three year time-bound phased programme. In the Jungel area of Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. 4 diamond pipe rocks have been located. Two diamonds one of gem quality weighing 27 cents and another off-coloured variety weighing 38 cents were recovered from one of the pipes thus establishing their diamondiferous nature. Further exploration is in progress. Except the diamond areas, which are already under mining like Majhegawan pipe and Ramkheria gravels, new area suitable for exploitation has not yet been established.

Average cost to Government for Replying starred question in Parliament

3438. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total and average cost to Government for replying the starred questions in the Parliament in 1980;

(b) which was the most expensive question during this period and what was the expense incurred;

(c) the breakup of these expenses in man-power, communication and printing etc; and

(d) are Government taking any steps to reduce the expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (a). There are at present no standing arrangements for compilation of data about the cost to Government for replying to Starred Questions in Parliament. The collection of particulars in this regard will not be practicable particularly as the efforts required to answer a Question will vary depending upon the nature of the Question.

Norms for giving cash assistance to Exporters

3439. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA. SHRI B. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms, if any, laid down for the purpose of giving assistance and other subsidies to the exporters for export promotions;

(b) whether there have been any instances where the norms laid down for the purpose were dispensed with or where the export resulted in no accretion of foreign exchange but a loss or where cash assistance was given for realisation of an amount of foreign exchange much less than the cash assistance; and

(c) if so, details thereof stating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAN KHAN): (a) The following are the main norms for determining cash compensatory support on exports effective from 1-4-79:

(i) Neutralsation of the handicaps encountered by exporters in the shape of

(a) indirect taxes, including sales tax on inputs imported or domestically purchased, that remain unrefunded after duty drawback;

(b) Higher rate of interest payable in India on working capital on export production;

(c) Higher cost of capital goods required in export production.

(ii) The nature of industry producing the item—whether small scale and cottage sector etc.

(iii) Labour intensive industries and agriculture based products;

(iv) Cost of entry into new markets;