

Exploration for Location of Chromite Reserves in Orissa.

2994. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken exploration for the location of chromite reserves in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the results of the exploration and the place where it has been carried out?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir. An intensive exploration programme, based on known occurrences of Chromite in Orissa, was taken up by the Geological Surveys of India in March, 1977 in Sukinda-Naushahi chromite belt in Cuttack, Keonjhar and Dhenkanel districts in collaboration with Government of Orissa, Orissa Mining Corporation and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited with Geological Survey of India as the lead agency.

(b) As a result of the exploration carried out so far, a reserve of about 112 million tonnes of chromite ore has been estimated upto depths of 100 metres in Kaliapani and Naushahi-Baula blocks, 200 metres in Saruabil and Sukerangi blocks and upto 250 metres in the Bhimtanagar and Bhimtanagar re-trenched blocks. Width of the ore zone varies from 1.50 to 22 metres having grades of 37.78 to 52.92 per cent Cr₂O₃.

Trade Agreements between India and Zimbabwe

2995. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade and commerce agreements had been signed with Zimbabwe during recent Zimbabwe Premier's visit to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and terms of the agreements; and

(c) what was the extent of trade transacted between the two countries during 1980-81 and how far it is likely to increase during 1981-82, as a result of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF TATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Trade Agreement was signed with Zimbabwe in New Delhi on 22nd May, 1981, during the visit of Zimbabwe's Prime Minister to India. The Agreement envisages (i) endeavour by both the countries to achieve higher levels of trade; (ii) extension of Most Favoured Nation treatment to each other; (iii) Payments in convertible currencies; and (iv) Constitution of a Joint Committee composed of representatives of the two countries for its effective implementation. The Agreement is valid initially for two years and is to be automatically renewed thereafter for further period of two years unless one of the contracting parties gives a written notice for its termination six months prior to the expiry of the Agreement.

(c) Trade between the two countries commenced only after Zimbabwe's independence in April 1980. There has been no trade during the first three months (April—June) of the year, 1980-81. Figures of trade for remaining period of the year are yet not available. Since trade relations between the two countries have started only recently and trade figures for the whole of 1980-81 are yet to be available, it is difficult to forecast at this stage the likely increase in trade during the year 1981-82.

Export of Sugar

2996. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India earned a profit of Rs. 9.2 crores on the export of sugar during 1980-81;