

### Nickel Project at Sukinda in Orissa in Sixth Plan

4437. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country's sole nickel project at Sukinda in Orissa which was expected to be included in the sixth plan will not be included in the Sixth Plan now ?
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the assistance of Canadian experts has been sought to determine the technology to be used in this Plant ;
- (d) if so, whether the Canadians have inspected the plan of the plant, resources etc., and their suggestions in this regard ;
- (e) whether the indigenous technology that was to be used in this plant has been discarded and if so, on what grounds and the technology that has been chosen now ; and
- (f) when the work on this project will commence since the project was sanctioned in 1974 ?

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

(a) to (f). In 1974, sanction was issued for setting up of a Nickel and Cobalt Extraction Plant using the ore to be obtained from the Sukinda area of Orissa State. This sanction was based on a preliminary feasibility report envisaging the use of indigenous technology. When the technology chosen was tried on pilot plant scale, it did not work, and therefore, the project could not progress.

The indigenous technology having failed, foreign technology has to be chosen judiciously. since Canada is a leading country in the field of nickel production, it has been decided to have a pre-feasibility assessment of the available data by Canadian Experts in this regard. The matter has already been taken up with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). One of the Experts deployed by CIDA has already held discussions with officials of the Department of Mines and Hindustan Copper Limited regarding preliminary evaluation of the available data and is expected to submit his report shortly. Depending upon the suggestions/advice of the Canadian experts, further course of action including preparation of feasibility report, pilot plant tests etc., would be decided.

The project has been placed in Category 'B' of the 6th Five Year Plan. Most of the expenditure will spill over to the next Five Year Plan in case the project is found feasible.

### Setting up of Dry Port in Delhi

4438. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any decision to set up a dry port in Delhi ;
- (b) whether the site for the port has been identified and survey conducted ; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c). In 1974 the Government had decided in principle to establish a dry port in Northern Region of India. However, in July, 1977 the then Government decided not to take the project for immediate