

up to 1 million tonnes per year from July, 1987 onward. The understanding is, however, yet to be firming up on a contractual basis.

contact with Mining & Geology Departments in other States where possibilities of gold occurrences and their commercial working exist.

New Deposits of Gold in Kolar and Dharwar Areas of Karnataka.

Functioning of Pelletisation Plant at Mangalore

1055. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

1056. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new deposits of Gold have been struck in Kolar and Dharwar areas of Karnataka;

(a) whether the work at the pelletisation Plant at Mangalore commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the progress made and amount spent so far;

(c) whether Government have initiated further measures to step up search for gold in this area and other areas in the country; and

(c) the amount earmarked for 1981-82;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(d) the time by which the work will be completed; and

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b).

(e) steps taken by Government to ensure that work is completed as scheduled?

No new deposits of gold have been found in Kolar or Dharwar areas of Karnataka recently. However, in the Kolar Gold Field. In Dharwar adjoining district of Andhra Pradesh, gold mineralisation which may have economic significance has been located by the Geological Survey of India at Mallappakkonda, Chigargunta and Nandimadagu areas, 30 km south of Kolar Gold Field. In Dharwar district newly available strike lengths of some old mines of Gadag Gold Field have been established to be gold bearing and may turn out to be suitable for commercial workings.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Work on infrastructure development has already been taken in hand. Survey and soil investigation works have also been completed. Work relating to detailed engineering of the plant is in progress. An amount of Rs. 3.46 crores has been spent so far.

(c) A provision of Rs. 6.47 crores has been made for 1981-82.

(c) and (d). A national five-star programme for gold exploration has been prepared and is being implemented by the Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and Bharat Gold Mines Limited. Geological Survey of India has stepped up search for gold in various parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Orissa and is in

(d) The work is scheduled to be completed by August, 1984.

(e) The contract for the pellet plant has been awarded to M/s. Uzlnexportimport (UEI), a State undertaking of Romania, with full back-up support of M/s. Lurgi Chemi of West Germany. Provision has been made in the contract safe-guarding against time and cost over-runs and