

Copper ore in Bastar

680. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1200 on the 20th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether investigations of copper ore deposits in Bastar district have since been completed;

(b) if so, what are the results obtained from this investigation; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, by what time detailed examination is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir. The work is still continuing.

(b) Three bore-holes that have been put down so far to find out the nature of mineralisation have shown the presence of several zones of sulphide mineralization bearing mostly pyrite. Sparse disseminations of copper sulphides have been noted but no lode of copper ore of any economic significance has been located so far.

(c) The investigation is likely to be completed by April, 1962.

Rock Phosphate

681. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts, if any, have been made by the Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India to discover and prove the deposit of rock phosphate in the country;

(b) what is the present annual production of rock phosphate;

(c) what are the likely and estimated deposits of the rock-phosphate in the country; and

(d) whether there are any plans for intensifying the exploration and exploitation of rock phosphate in the country?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Deposits of

phosphate in Singhbhum district have been mapped in detail by the Geological Survey of India. Some prospecting was carried out by pitting and trenching in connection with the mineral survey of the Damodar Valley basin. Detailed proving of the apatite deposits of Singhbhum copper belt has been taken in hand by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

The occurrence of phosphatic nodules at Tiruchirappally district, Madras was investigated by the Geological Survey of India some years back. A preliminary survey of the reported apatite deposits in Sitarampuram area, Vishakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh has also been made.

(b) At present no rock phosphate is produced in the country. The production of apatite during the years 1958 and 1959 was 14,806 tonnes and 14,030 tonnes respectively.

(c) The estimated reserves of phosphate deposits are as follows:

Singhbhum District, Bihar	..	700,000 tons.
Tiruchirapalli District, Madras	..	8,000,000 tons.
Vishakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh	..	170,000 tons.

(d) Yes Sir. The investigation of phosphate deposits in Mussoorie (Uttar Pradesh); Tiruchirapalli, South Arcot, Pondicherry (Madras); and promising areas in Orissa and Bihar has been taken up by the Geological Survey of India.

Efforts are also being made to increase the present production in existing mines by adoption of proper mining methods.

Tribal Students of Tripura

682. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Government High Schools of Agartala, which received grant-in-aid from Government so far during the course of the Second