

account, was Rs. 1,02,082 which includes about Rs. 80,000 on inter-departmental and intra-departmental meetings of the Plant.

Mobile Exhibition of Rourkela Steel Plant

5708. SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there was a mobile exhibition on behalf of Rourkela Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd. last year, which went from place to place ;

(b) whether this exhibition was held only in posh hotels of India ; and

(c) if so, the total amount spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Techno-Economic Feasibility Report on Diamond belt in Andhra Pradesh

5709. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the techno-economic feasibility report on diamond belt in Ramallakota (Kurnool District) Andhra Pradesh has been prepared and submitted ;

(b) if so, its salient features ;

(c) whether exploratory operations are being closed down and if so the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether a separate Corporation named "The Gem Corporation of India" is being set up to take up all the diamond and precious stones projects in the country ;

(e) whether the Centre has been requested by Andhra Pradesh Government not to lose the said project but to continue it ; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Central Government, thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results of investigations show that virtually the entire area of the diamond bearing formation in Ramallakota is occupied by sand stones, conglomerates occurring in a few very restricted zones only. 695 tonnes of sand stone and 989 tonnes of conglomeratic sand stones which were treated give an incidence of 0.24 carats and 2.84 carats per 100 tonnes respectively. The incidence obtained is far below the cut-off grade. Neither the amount of ore reserves nor the incidence establish the economic viability of the Project.

(c) Consequent upon the completion of the investigation, the operations by National Mineral Development Corporation at Ramallakota (Kurnool District) were closed down with effect from 15.5.1971.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. But as the operations which the National Mineral Development Corporation had under taken were only to complete the investigations they had to be closed down once the investigations were completed.

Exploration of Minerals in the Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi River Basins

5710. SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether exploration of minerals was undertaken in the Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi river basins ; and

(b) if so, when the exploration was done and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) Exploration for minerals in the Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi river basins has been carried out by the Geological Survey of India and the State Govts. of Tamil Nadu, Mysore, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.