

(b) These developments have confirmed that there is no military solution to the problem of Bangla Desh and that only a political settlement between the military rulers of Pakistan and the already elected representatives of the people led by Sheikh Mujibur Rehman can resolve the present tension and conflict.

**Mediation over Bangla Desh  
Refugees Affairs**

1608. SHRI M M JOSEPH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered to have the Bangla Desh refugees affair mediated by any foreign country ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Offer of Mediation by U. K. on East Bengal Problem**

1609. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH .  
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR :  
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU .

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any mediation offer by U.K for bringing about a solution to the East Bengal problem ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government have seen statements ascribed to British leaders in the press and also certain statements made by the British Government in the House of Commons offering help over the Bangla Desh problem if both India and Pakistan ask for it. However, the Government of the United Kingdom have been made aware that the real issue in Bangla Desh is that of getting military rulers of Pakistan to respect the legitimate aspirations of the people of Bangla

Desh by arriving at a political settlement with the already elected representatives of the people of Bangla Desh. Since Bangla Desh is not an Indo-Pakistan dispute, the question of any mediation between India and Pakistan over it does not arise.

**Discovery of Platinum Deposits by Geology  
Department of Nagpur University  
in Maharashtra**

1610. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN . Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the preliminary survey conducted by a team of Nagpur University's Geology Department have discovered platinum deposits in Bhandara district of Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct further detailed survey of the area ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). Discovery of larg. deposit of platinum was reported in Bhandara district, Maharashtra by a Nagpur University Team recently. On receipt of this report, the Geological Survey of India undertook geological studies of the area and collected samples to test incidence of platinum in the rocks. The data so far available from these samples indicate only traces of platinum which are irregularly and sparingly disseminated in the rocks. Further work by the Geological Survey of India is in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

**Discovery of Minerals used for Manufacture  
of Special Steel in Tamil Nadu**

1611. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether molybdenite a mineral of strategic importance used in the manufacture of special steel, has been struck recently near Palani in Madurai District (Tamil Nadu) ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to

survey the area and mine the ores thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) and (b). As a result of investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India molybdenite mineralisation in aplite and granite varying in width from 0.50-2.20 metres has been traced over a distance of 44 metres in an east-west direction along the southern boundary near Karadikuttam, Madurai District, Tamil Nadu.

(c) So far a total of 2271 metres has been drilled in 23 boreholes. Further drilling is being continued to assess the depth and strike persistence of mineralisation. Geophysical survey employing Induced Polarisation (I.P.) method, is also being continued. Bulk samples collected by pitting showing molybdenite mineralisation are being tested for beneficiation studies. Tests carried out by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur have given promising results for 2 samples.

The question of ore mining can be taken up only after the investigations by the Geological Survey of India are completed.

#### Mineral Deposits in Tamil Nadu

1612. **SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to trace gold deposits in Nilgris District (Tamil Nadu) and magnesite in Thiruvanamalai (North Arcot District), Tamil Nadu and patches of bauxite in Salem District, Tamil Nadu and Sulphur Pyrrhotite in North Arcot District, (Tamil Nadu) ;

(b) if so, the main features of the survey ; and

(c) the time by which the mining work is proposed to be started ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) to (c). The Geological Survey of India has conducted investigations in Tamil Nadu for gold in Nilgris, magnesite in Thiruvanamalai (North Arcot District), bauxite in Salem District and Sulphur Pyrrhotite in North Arcot District. Details of the investigations

and the action taken to exploit some of these deposits wherever feasible is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*Gold :*

##### *Nilgris district*

The possible reserves of gold ore in Skull-Victoria Reef over a strike length of 900 metres was computed to be 1,603,800 tonnes with an average gold content of 1.9 gram per tonne. The drilling however, proved that there is no economically workable gold deposits available in this area.

Occurrences of gold in the Adathural area have also been noticed. Further investigations and collection of samples in this area will be continued during the current field season. Further investigations will be conducted if the results are found encouraging.

##### *Magnesite*

##### *Thiruvanamalai, North Arcot District*

The Magnesite reserves near Torappadi, Chengam Taluk, North Arcot district, have been estimated at 5,914 tonnes (measured reserve) upto 1.74 metre depth, 16,994 tonnes (indicated reserve) upto 5 metres depth and 84,969 tonnes (inferred reserve) upto an assumed depth of 25 metres. The reserves, which are small, have been brought to the notice of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., for examining the possibility of mining these deposits.

##### *Bauxite*

##### *Salem district*

The bauxite reserves on the Shevaroy Hills and the Kollai Malai Hills, Salem district have been estimated at 2.24 million tonnes with 35%  $AL_2O_3$  and above and 2.59 million tonnes (indicated reserves) with 35% to 50%  $AL_2O_3$  respectively.

At present, the Madras Aluminium Company Ltd. are mining the Shevaroy Hills deposits for use in their aluminium plant at Mattur. A few of the bauxite occurrences on the Kollai Malai Hills have also been leased to the Madras Aluminium Company Ltd. The Geological Survey of India is continuing prospecting in other occurrences to assess their potentiality.