

tion of nearly 9 to 10 thousand tonnes per annum is being produced only in Bihar by M/s. Indian Copper Corporation.

(b) and (c). Copper produced by this unit situated in the State of Bihar is by and large allocated to the Delcense Units through D G S & D. However, a certain quantity of copper produced by them is allowed for their own consumption for the production of semis

Therefore the question of imbalance in distribution to different States does not arise

Production of Jobs to Miners of Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines of National Mineral Development Corporation

4161 SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 1500 Miners have been thrown out of their jobs consequent on the suspension of the production of Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines of the National Mineral Development Corporation, and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide jobs to the unemployed pool Miners there ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Accumulation of Iron Ore at Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines of N.M.D.C.

4162 SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether over two lakh tonnes of Iron Ore are lying piled up at Pit-Heads, and Loading Points at Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines of the National Mineral Develop-

ment Corporation for want of Export to Japan,

(b) whether Japan has refused to sign further agreement with India after the expiry of the old agreement; and

(c) if so, who is responsible for the loss due to overstocking of Iron ore, and the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) There is a surplus quantity of about 1.37 lakh tonnes of ore lying at the Kiriburu mine and the Virag Port, after meeting the contractual obligations for the year 1971-72

(b) As far as the above surplus is concerned, efforts are still being made by the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation to persuade the Japanese Steel Mills to purchase the surplus Kiriburu ore. Possibility of export to other countries is also being explored by the M. M. T. C. On expiry of the old agreement, Kiriburu ore is/will be diverted to Bokaro Steel Plant

(c) The surplus is about 10% of the contract quantity and normally would have been taken by the Japanese but for the recent recession, NMDC is exploring the possibility of sale to Rourkela Steel Plant

Collapse of Surda Copper Mines in District Singhbhum (Bihar)

4163 SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many miners were buried alive and many other injured when a roof of the Surda Copper Mines caved in on the 7th April, 1972 in District Singhbhum, Bihar.

(b) the authority held responsible for the accident; and