

present engaged in the collection of necessary data for the preparation of feasibility report for this deposit.

(IV) *Nickel* :

A Feasibility report has been prepared for the Sukinda Nickel deposit which envisages production of 4800 tonnes of nickel powder, 200 tonnes cobalt powder and 17,000 tonnes of ammonium sulphate as by-product per annum. Steps are being taken to undertake pilot scale test before a Detailed Project Report for the commercial exploitation of the deposit is drawn up.

**Survey for Mineral Wealth in Punjab**

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

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has carried out any survey in Punjab to find out the mineral wealth in the State; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Out of the total area of 50,362 sq. km. of the State, an area of about 37,740 sq. km. has been covered by systematic geological mapping on 1" = 1 mile scale and the rest of the area by geological mapping on smaller scales. As a result of the detailed investigations carried out by Geological Survey of India, reserves of 0,158 million tonnes of Calc. tufa at Birampur-Mahindpur; 20 million tonnes of Glass sand at Jaijor and 26 million tonnes at Garhi Mansawal in Hoshiarpur district have been estimated. Rich deposits of salts in Gurdaspur and Saltpetre in Ferozpur and a minor deposit of limestone in the bed of the Chakki river near Pathankot have also been located. Besides, an area of about 28,000 sq. km. has also been covered by Groundwater survey in the State.

**Crisis in Goa Mineral Ore Industry due to drop in off-take of Ore by Japan.**

756. SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAKODKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Goa mineral ore industry is facing crisis worse than it did in 1962, following a sharp drop in the off-take of ore by Japan;

(b) if so, the reasons of crisis in ore industry this time; and

(c) whether in view of the fact that Goa mineral ore industry is back-bone of the economy of the Union Territory, what assistance the Central Government propose to provide to the industry to overcome the crisis.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN). (a) and (b). While there has been increase of about 11% in the export of iron ore to Japan during 1971-72, the export of manganese ore to that country has gone down.

The Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association had represented to the Government regarding increase in the cost of production of ore, international competition and recession in demand and accordingly asked for abolition of export duty on ores and restoration of tax credit of 10% on iron ore lump and fines.

(c) The Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association has been asked to furnish certain data to facilitate further examination of their request.

**Setting up of a Steel Plant in Goa**

757. SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAKODKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be please to state :

(a) whether Goa Government had demanded the Centre for setting up of a steel plant in Goa;

(b) if so, whether the Goa Government has again reviewed its demand; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering the proposal for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Government of Goa, Daman and Diu have requested that the location of a steel plant in Goa may be considered while drawing up proposals for the Fifth Five Year plan.