

(b) if so, the details thereof and decision taken thereon ;

(c) if not, when the investigations are likely to be completed ; and

(d) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (d). Investigation by the Special Police Establishment is still in progress. As it has to be conducted at a number of places in India, it may take some more time.

Durgapur Steel Plant

8228. **SHRI UMANATH :**
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON ;
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI ;
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES and METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Steel Corporation expert team has submitted any report on the Durgapur Steel Plant ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the decisions taken thereon ; and

(d) if not, when the report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) It is expected that the British Steel Corporation Team's report would become available in May, 1968.

Aerial Mineral Survey

8229. **SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH :**
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS :
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/S Parsons Corporation and M/S Aero-Service Corporation, USA have been given contract to carry out aerial mineral survey ;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the contract and the total amount of foreign exchange involved ; and

(c) the total amount required for the

purchase of sophisticated equipment needed to carry out aerial survey ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) :

(a) Yes, Sir. M/s Parsons Corporation has been given the contract for the Operation Hardrock Project. The Aero Service Corporation has been given a sub-contract for carrying out airborne geophysical surveys.

(b) According to the terms and conditions the Contractor and sub-Contractor will carry out the work in selected areas in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar under the overall direction of the Government of India. The work includes airborne electromagnetic, magnetic and radiometric surveys over approximately 144,000 line-kilometers, detailed ground follow-up work comprising ground geological, geophysical, geochemical surveys and diamond core drilling, for evaluation of mineral deposits. For this purpose, they will import aircraft fitted with necessary instrumentation, laboratory equipment etc., and experts in the field of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, photogeology, metallurgy and drilling who will work in association with Indian technical officers.

The Contractors are also expected to assist the Government of India in setting up a Central Metallurgical Laboratory and mobile chemical laboratories. The Contractors will also provide technical training for carrying out a modern integrated prospecting programme. The entire work is to be carried out within a period of 30 months from the commencement of the aerial survey operations.

The total amount of foreign exchange involved for the entire project is 3.5 million dollars provided as a loan by the U. S. Government.

(c) It is not clear as to what is implied by "sophisticated" equipment in this context. Presumably, the Hon'ble Member wish to have information regarding the equipment proposed to be imported from the USA for the work involved. The total amount involved for the purchase of such equipment for this project is \$ 0.75 million.