

(a) whether it is a fact that an automatic train control device to prevent the possibility of accidents is going to be tried on the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the cost of the device;

(c) when it is going to be implemented; and

(d) where it is exactly going to be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 55.7 lakhs.

(c) The work is expected to be commissioned progressively from October, 1970 to March, 1971.

(d) Automatic Train Control will be provided on.

(i) Howrah-Burdwan section via main line as well as Howrah-Burdwan Chord.

(ii) Burdwan-Gaya-Mughalsarai section via Grand Chord.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Project

4042. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) for how long the pilot project of the Kudremukh Iron Ore has been delayed after its sanction, the reasons for the same and how they are being removed;

(b) the reasons for not starting the construction of the road to Kudremukh, when this is necessary even for the pilot project;

(c) the reasons for not constructing this road through Karkal which has more feeder roads and is in greater width than Belthanangadi; and

(d) what is the programme for the iron ore project at present keeping in view the fact that the Harbour Project presumes supply of iron ore from Kudremukh by 1972 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) Final approval of the Government to the undertaking by the National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., of techno-economic feasibility and plant studies of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Deposits, was accorded on the 19th Oct., 1968, following which the Corporation held detailed discussions with the foreign partners from the 15th November to 25th November, 1968 and commenced the studies on the 1st December, 1968. There has been, therefore no delay in the commencement of the work.

(b) and (c). The National Mineral Development Corporation has already approached the State Government to improve the roads and construct necessary bridges urgently. The Corporation has also requested the State Government to include the Karkal-Mala Bhagwati road alignment in the Fourth Five-Year Plan and to expedite surveys for the alignment.

(d) The first phase for the development of the Mangalore Harbour, scheduled for completion by 1972, does not take into account the availability of ore from Kudremukh. The present sanction for Kudremukh is confined to techno-economic feasibility studies and pilot plant testing programme, which is scheduled to be completed within 18 months from now. A decision on the main project for commercial exploitation of the Kudremukh deposits will be taken only after the feasibility studies have been completed by about the middle of 1970.

National Industrial Development Corporation

4043. SHRI VISHWA NATH MENON : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a letter, dated the 28th Augst, 1968 written by one Member of Parliament was received by him regarding the irregularities in the National Industrial Development Corporation or the