

the Government regarding the specific areas where detailed prospecting and exploratory operations should be conducted.

Copper Deposits in Agnigundala

2192. SHRI P. VENKATASUB-
BAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL,
MINES AND METALS be pleased to
state;

(a) whether any comprehensive
assessment of the availability of cop-
per deposits in Agnigundala in Guntur
district has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any programme of
work has been drawn up to start the
exploitation of these deposits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND
METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a)
Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India
have surveyed the area in Guntur
District in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Large scale mapping and ex-
ploratory drilling has been done in
Dhukonda, Nallakonda and Bandala-
mottu Blocks. Data obtained so far
indicates presence of copper deposits
in Dhukonda and Nallakonda Blocks
and mainly lead in the Bandalamottu
Blocks.

(c) The Hindustan Copper Limited
are conducting a feasibility study for
the development and exploitation of
the copper deposits.

**Retrenchment of Labourers in
Manganese Mines**

2193. DR. A. G. SONAR: Will the
Minister of STEEL, MINES AND
METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Manganese Mines at Ramtek and
Nagpur Tehsil of Nagpur District are
facing many difficulties due to acute
competition in this business;

(b) whether it is also a fact that
considering the present state of affairs

Government propose to retrench the
labourers in the mines;

(c) whether Government are aware
that there are some superfluous offi-
cers in the office of the Managing
Director of the above mines at Nag-
pur; and

(d) whether Government would
first retrench the superfluous officers
before they start retrenchment of
labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND
METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a)
Yes, Sir. The manganese ore mines in
the Ramtek and Nagpur Districts are
facing acute difficulties as a result of
several competition in the export
market.

(b) This is for the mining Com-
panies to decide. In view of the pre-
sent state of affairs in the manganese
ore mining Industry, mining Com-
panies in all likelihood may have to
effect all possible economies including
retrenchment to the extent desirable.

(a) and (d). It is presumed that
the Honourable member is referring
to Manganese Ore India Limited. The
Board of Management of this Com-
pany has critically examined the
staff position and are of the view that
in the context of depression in the
Industry, some staff, both in office
and the mines have become surplus.
Any retrenchment programme of such
surplus staff is the responsibility of
the management of the Company and
not of Government. The Company
has accordingly drawn up a phased
programme for retrenchment. This
has been discussed by the management
with the recognised Union and an
agreement has been signed between
the management and the Union under
the auspices of the Regional Labour
Commissioner, Jabalpur in a concilia-
tion proceeding held on 13-11-1968.
According to this, services of workers
above the age of 60 years or those who
have completed 30 years of service
would be terminated.