

systematic geological mapping and regional mineral assessment of over 126,000 sq. km. area and detailed mapping, on various scales, of over 30,000 sq. km. area distributed in all the States, during the last three years. Geophysical and geochemical prospecting and detailed mineral exploration by drilling and exploratory mining were also carried out. Statement I showing the mineral investigations carried out by Geological Survey of India in various States during the last three years is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4451/70].

(b) and (c). Since location and assessment of mineral deposits are continuous processes taking several years, the relevant programmes of Geological Survey of India included follow-up drilling of significant geophysical and geochemical anomaly zones, and continuation of drilling to explore and delineate mineral deposits in mineralized belts and other areas in various parts of the country and assess their reserves and grades. Several significant achievements can be credited to this period. Statement II indicating the significant achievements is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4451/70].

Tours of Newsmen organised by National Mineral Development Corporation to various exploration sites

2833. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation organised certain conducted tours of newsmen to different exploration sites ;

(b) the reasons for not consulting the Press Information Bureau and the Press Association in selecting journalists for such conducted tours ; and

(c) the reason for not routing the press information activities of the undertaking under his Ministry through the Information Officer of the Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARY) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise as the selection of journalists was done in consultation with the Information Officer of Press Information Bureau attached to the Ministry.

(c) So far as National Mineral Development Corporation is concerned, it has got its own public relations and publicity departments for the purpose. However, all important press releases and features etc. are, generally, routed through the Information Officer of the Press Information Bureau attached to the Ministry.

बम्बई के निकट रूसी जौड-8 का पृथ्वी पर उतरना

2834. श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह : क्या बंबई-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रूसी अन्तरिक्ष यान जौड-8 हाल ही में बम्बई के निकट पृथ्वी पर उतरा था ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

बंबई-कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) सोवियत स्पेसक्राफ्ट जौड-8 हिन्द महासागर में किसी स्थान पर भूमि पर उतरा था ।

(ख) सोवियत राजदूतावास ने, बम्बई पतन पर एक सोवियत जहाज से स्पेसक्राफ्ट को उतारने तथा एक सोवियत एयरक्राफ्ट पर उसे चढ़ाने के लिए, जो उसे मास्को ले गया था, सहायता का अनुरोध किया था ।

सरकार द्वारा शांतिपूर्ण वैज्ञानिक अन्तरिक्ष खोज के लिये मित्र देशों से ऐसी प्रार्थनाओं को पूरा करने की अपनी नीति के अनुसार मांगी गयी सुविधाएं प्रदान कर दी गई थीं ।