Written Answers

43

Mining Project for Hilly Areas

*253. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to carry out a special mining project for hilly areas;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- whether in Jammu & Kashmir, around Jawahar Tunnel and its surroundings, unexpected metals, minerals and other such reserves have been found;
- if so, the details thereof and the reason for not carrying out such project in order to find out the hidden wealth of our country; and
- (e) the details of new mines which have been discovered during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) (a) No, Sir.

- Does not arise, in view of (a) above. (b)
- No significant metal deposits have been found around the Jawahar Tunnel. However, to the north of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of limestone have been found at verinag area and to the south of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of Gypsum have been found in Ramban area.
- Since no metal deposit of economic significance has been found, the question of mining of metal deposits does not arise.

The gypsum and limestone deposits around the Jawahar Tunnel are being exploited by State Public Sector and private companies.

Details of mines opened during the three years State-wise upto 96-97 are given in enclosed statement-l

and details of mining plans approved by Indian Bureau of Mines for fresh grant of mining leases during the last three years (upto 20.2.99) are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I State-wise details of Mines Opened in the Three Years Ending in March, 1997

SI.No.	Name of the State	No. of Mines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53
2.	Bihar	25
3.	Gujarat	31
4.	Haryana	01
5.	Himachal Pradesh	04
6.	Karnataka	15
7.	Kerala	28
8.	Madhya Pradesh	40
9.	Maharashtra	13
10.	Orissa	12
11.	Rajasthan	17
12.	Tamil Nadu	30
13.	Uttar Pradesh	06
14.	West Bengal	02
	Total:	277

Statement-II

State-wise Number of Mining Plans Approved by Indian Bureau of Mines for Fresh Grant of Mining Leases, during the Last 3 years

State	98-99 (upto 20.2.99)	97-98	96-97		
1	2	3	4		
Assam	3	0	0		
Andhra Pradesh	90	80	53		
Bihar	4	5	6		
Goa	1	0	0		
Gujarat	29	36	37		
Himachal Pradesi	h 0	0	2		
Haryana	5	0	42		
Jammu & Kashm	ir O	1	0		

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	15	26	35
Kerala	7	7	23
Madhya Pradesh	81	95	73
Maharashtra	3	4	3
Meghalaya	0	2	0
Orissa	13	21	14
Rajasthan	43	78	90
Tamil Nadu	28	45	54
Uttar Pradesh	1	4	11
West Bengal	1	0	2
Manipur	0	1	0
Total	324	405	445

Bank Loans to Minorities

*254. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are receiving regular returns from the nationalised banks, indicating loans/ advances provided to specified minorities;
- (b) if so, whether some of the banks have defaulted in this matter;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government against such banks;
- (d) whether the Government have fixed any annual target for grant of loans to minorities; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GREIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have informed that returns from Banks regarding loans and advances granted to minority communities are generally received regularly. However, in case of any delay in receipt of return from any bank, the matter is immediately taken up by RBI with the concerned bank.

Under Government sponsored bank credit linked programmes such as Prime Ministers' Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) etc, sub-targets have been fixed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women.

With a view to ensure adequate flow of credit to minority communities, RBI have taken number of steps which inter-alia include:

- * setting up of sepcial cell for minorities in each banks for facilitating flow of credit to the minority communities:
- review of progress regularly at the meetings of the District Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers Committees:
- good publicity regarding various anti-poverty programmes of the Government especially in the 41 identified districts having concentration of minority communities:
- appointment of an Officer by lead bank in each of these 41 districts to look exclusively into the problems relating to flow of credit to minority communities;
- preparation of suitable programmes for bank credit to minority communities in consultation with the branch managers; and
- organising entrepreneurial development programmes by Lead banks for the benefit of minority community members.

[Translation]

Visit of American Team to India

*255. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a team of American officials propose to visit India to verify the child labour component in the textile industry before according permission for Indian garment exports:
- (b) if so, whether permission has been granted by the Government to the American Customs officials to visit India;
- (c) if so, the date by which this team is likely to visit India and the items likely to be enquired by them; and
- (d) the rationals behind the visit of such a team and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) On approval by the Government of India, a team of 3 U.S. customs officials has visited India during February, 1999. The purpose of their visit was to be briefed on forced/indentured child labour in handknotted carpet industry in India.