

(c) whether the Government are aware that Kudremukh iron ore has gold concentrations which would be economical to our country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Steel, is producing iron ore concentrates and Pellets from the iron ore extracted from Kudremukh mines situated in Karnataka State. The quantity of iron ore concentrates and pellets exported to Japan during the last 3 years was as under :

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Year	Concentrates	Pellets
1996-97	1.267	0.103
1995-96	1.385	—
1994-95	1.541	—

(c) to (e) The iron ore at Kudremukh is of the nature of Banded Magnetite Quarizite with low iron content. The Company undertook extensive studies to find out the occurrence of gold in the mineable depositis as also the tailings from the tailings dam. Numerous samples were collected and sent to Australia for detailed analysis. The samples were also analysed within the country. The tests have revealed that there is no extractable gold present and it is only in minute traces which cannot be exctracted economically.

#### Telephone Facility in Block Headquarters

2474. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the Block headquarters connected with STD so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PARSAD VARMA) :

*State-wise details of Block Headquarters with S. T. D. facility*

State	Block Headquarters	
	Total	With STD facility
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	—	*
Assam	166	105
Bihar	727	476
Gujarat	—	*
Haryana	110	87

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	72	68
Jammu & Kashmir	119	38
Karnataka	123	123
Kerala	149	149
Madhya Pradesh	459	339
Maharashtra	311	294
Goa	11	11
Arunachal Pradesh	—	*
Manipur	—	*
Maghalaya	30	10
Mizoram	20	6
Nagaland	77	14
Tripura	—	*
Orissa	314	291
Punjab	136	125
Rajasthan	237	212
Tamil Nadu	397	334
Uttar Pradesh	892	375
West Bengal	322	225
Sikkim	411	16
Delhi	—	*

\* There are no Block Headquarters in these states.

#### Setting up of New Railway Zones

2475. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up three more Railway zones;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government to set up Zonal headquarter of South West Railway zone at Calicut and Trivandrum, Madurai and Palghat divisions under the zone; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?