

both in favour of and against the decision for the transfer of mining lease for Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B to a joint venture company.

The major apprehension expressed in the representations of the Unions against the said transfer of the mining lease was that establishment of a new joint venture company with a private sector partner would deprive local people, especially tribals of employment opportunities. The other major issues raised in the representations were that the private party may not take up development of the local area; it would deprive N.M.D.C. of the benefit of expansion; the consideration proposed to be charged was inadequate and that there may be clash of interest between the joint venture partners over the use of existing infrastructure facilities.

Concerns expressed by different trade unions/ organisations were considered by the Ministry of Steel. Keeping these in view certain safeguards were provided and included in the note for the Cabinet prepared by the Ministry, and later approved by the Cabinet, envisaging that :

- (i) NMDC may charge as consideration for transfer of the mining lease an amount that would enable it to recover the actual expenditure incurred by it on deposit 11-B including the cost of exploration of the deposit and preparation of DPR (updated to current costs through an appropriate method to be determined by NMDC in consultation with a professional organisation like ICWAI), observing all the requirements for transfer of lease prescribed under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960;
- (ii) The joint venture company will recruit all skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers for the Bailadila deposit 11-B project through the local employment exchange, except to the extent that such workers are not available with the local employment exchange and a certificate to that effect is provided by the exchange; and
- (iii) In case any infrastructural and other facilities already created by NMDC are required to be used by the joint venture company, NMDC will be free to levy user charges in respect of such facilities on commercial basis.

These conditions have been incorporated in the joint venture agreement signed between NMDC and the joint venture partner.

The representations in favour of the transfer of the Bailadila 11-B mining lease expressed the view that it would open avenues for greater employment opportunities for the local people and ensure speedier development of the area.

The representations were replied to appropriately by the Ministry of Steel.

Fishing Harbours

*17. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of work completed on the construction of the Fishing Harbours at the Mapila Bay in Kerala;

(b) the allocation so far made for the two projects respectively;

(c) whether the work is progressing as per schedule; and

(d) the stipulated time for completion of the project and reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) There is only one Fishery Harbour sanctioned and under construction at Mopla Bay. For the development of the harbour at Mopla Bay, the works of procurement of tools, Plants, machinery and construction of weigh-bridge are completed. Construction of breakwater and extension of groyne are also nearing completion.

(b) The expenditure incurred for the project by April 1996 is Rs. 281.21 lakhs. Government of India have released Rs. 240.00 lakhs against 50% share of sanctioned cost of Rs. 564.00 lakhs. Government of India have made a tentative allocation of Rs. 450.00 lakhs for the current year 1996-97 for construction of Fishery Harbour Projects in Kerala, including Mopla Bay.

(c) and (d). The Fishery Harbour Project at Mopla Bay was accorded administrative approval in January, 1992 with stipulated time for completion of project of four years from the date of sanction. The project implementation is delayed as the construction could not be started till December, 1993 due to litigation in the High Court.

[Translation]

Production of Wheat

*18. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the news regarding decline in wheat output which appeared in the Observer, dated May, 21, 1996;