

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3220
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
NICKEL PLANT IN ORISSA
KUMUDINI PATNAIK

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for prospecting of new Nickel mines in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up the more Nickel Plant in the above State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) to (d): At present, there is no proposal for prospecting of new Nickel mines and to set up Nickel Plant in the State of Orissa. However, the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a process to extract Nickel metal from Chromite overburden accumulated as waste after extraction of Chrome ore. A pilot plant with the capacity to treat upto 10 tonnes chromite overburden per day has been set up at the Regional Research Laboratory of CSIR at Bhubaneswar. The plant is being operated to generate sufficient data in arriving at techno-economic viability of nickel extraction from chromite overburden.