

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Occurrences of granite have been reported in Deoghar, Godda and Bhagalpur districts where reserves of 19 million cu.m have been estimated. Black stone ballast/bouldars occur in Pakud areas of Sahibganj district.

As per information available, Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation, a State Public Sector Undertaking has a proposal to set up a processing plant in the joint sector at Daltonganj in Palameu district for manufacture of export quality pink granite blocks.

(c) As per information available, 6,14,767 tonnes of granite was exported during 1990-91 from India. Principal markets for Indian rough and cut blocks of granite are Japan, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Singapore while the principal markets for polished granite are UK, USA, USSR, Japan, Germany and Netherlands. Besides Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAF, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand etc. also important granite from India. The value of exports of granite in 1990-91 was approximately Rs. 198 crores.

While royalty and the levies on granite accrue to concerned State Governments, earnings from exports go to the individual exporters of granite.

(d) to (f): Since granite is a minor mineral, the development of granite deposits is the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Government have given incentives for encouraging exports of granite like providing export finance at concessional interest, waiving of customs and excise duties on equipments required for 100% Export Oriented Units and concession from payment of tax under the income tax Act.

Restructuring of ONGC

2368. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b) There have been many suggestions but no formal decision to restructure the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been taken by the Government.

Procurement of Raw Cashewnuts by NAFED

2369. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED propose to procure raw cashewnuts from cashew growers in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of cashewnuts proposed to be procured during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPLLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Kerala Raw Cashewnut (Procurement & Distribution) Act, 1981, only a Cooperative Society registered under the Kerala Cooperative Society Act, 1969 can