

(b) if so the details thereof, metal-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for the excavation of these metals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the occurrences of precious metals located in Himalayan region by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) are as follows:

Uttar Pradesh : Prospecting between Sarra and Gola rivers, Tanakpur area, Nainital Distt. has shown very low content of gold.

Himachal Pradesh : In Mubarakpur area, Una district, gold value in the sediment of upper Siwalik is very low.

Sikkim : Sulphide mineralisation in the areas namely Pachekhani, Rorathang and Relep contain minor amounts of gold. All the above gold occurrences are of very little economic value.

(c) and (d) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder.

#### Indian Building Congress Convention

1373. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Convention of Indian Building Congress held at Delhi on 28th April 1998, stressed upon the need for fast development of Villages by public and private participants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Vice President, while developing the concept of ideal village which the Father of the Nation Mahatama Gandhi had propogated, said that villages should be made so attractive, that future cities could be an organic whole of a number of villages which within this whole provide all the modern needs of the people.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, through multipronged development programmes focusing on employment generation, asset creation, provision of drinking water and housing and empowerment of the Panchayats is committed to the upliftment of the Rural areas.

#### Construction of Rail Line between Jalandhar and Chandigarh

1374. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :  
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay new rail line to link Chandigarh direct with Jalandhar and Ludhiana via Nawa Shahar-Samrala-Kharar and Mohali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is a proposal for construction of a new line from Ludhiana to Chandigarh. The proposed alignment will pass through Samrala, kharar and Mohali but not through Nawa Shahar.

(b) The work has been included in Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. The action for obtaining the clearances has been initiated and the work would be started once these are obtained.

#### Employment Schemes in Assam

1375. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of ongoing employment schemes in the urban areas of Assam; and

(b) the funds provided and the total number of mandays created during each of the last three years; and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana was launched in 1989 to provide employment opportunities to urban poor beneficiaries. This scheme came to an end on 30.11.97.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched on 01.12.97. The SJSRY applies to all urban areas and it seeks to provide gainful employment to urban unemployed under employed poor living below the poverty line through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

(b) The funds released and mandays generated under the wage employment component of NRY during the last three years in Assam are as follows :