

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Reserve of Limestone

5343. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recent mineral investigations were conducted to assess the BS and SMS grade limestones in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enlist overseas participation in the commercial exploitation of limestone deposits in Meghalaya; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in quality and quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated a total of 2265 million tonnes of limestone in Litang river valley, Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya as resource potential. Detailed exploration by GSI to recategorise these reserves is going on since 1992-93 and probable reserves of 884 million tonnes are established in a block of 3.5 sq.km. in Litang river valley of which 50% is of Steel Melting Shop (SMS) grade and 25-30% is of cement grade.

(c) and (d) A proposal from M/s. Lum Mawshun Minerals Private Ltd., a company incorporated in Shillong, Meghalaya for mining and export of limestone and shale in foreign collaboration with M/s. Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., France with 74% foreign equity participation has been received through Ministry of Industry. The proposal is under examination in Department of Mines, The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) will take a final decision in the matter thereafter.

New Airport near Mumbai

5344. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bureaucratic hurdles block Rs. 5,870 cr. Cidco projects" appearing in The Observer dated 6th July, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India in November, 1997 had constituted a committee to look into the issues related to the second airport for Mumbai Region. In the last Committee meeting held on 13th May, 1998, it was decided that four sites at Mumbai recommended by the Government of Maharashtra, i.e. (1) Navi Mumbai, (2) Existing Mumbai Airport, (3) Mhapan at Sindhudurg District and (4) Mandwa Rewas would be evaluated. Out of the four sites, three sites have been surveyed and technically evaluated i.e. existing Mumbai Airport, Mandwa-Rewas and Mhapan-Sindhudurg. The fourth site i.e. Panvel, where CIDCO proposes to construct new domestic airport is under review. Traffic and site surveys are being undertaken and the final report is likely to be submitted to the Government by early October, 1998.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sub-Standard Lime in BALCO

5345. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of lime purchased by Bharat Aluminium Company, Korba from the lime industries situated at Korba during 1996-97 and 1997-98, industry-wise;

(b) the amount deducted on account of sub-standard lime purchased from the subsidiary lime industries and other two lime industries which are not subsidiaries of BALCO;

(c) whether these two lime industries were given the order of supplying lime even after the expiry of the tenders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has ancillary industries and not subsidiary industries. The quantity of lime purchased in 1996-97 and 1997-98 from Ancillary Industries as well as from units other than ancillary industries is given below:-

Fig. in Tonnes

Financial Year	From Ancillary Industries	From other than Ancillary Industries
1996-97	18,763	25070
1997-98	18,957	18798