

traders and smugglers from the neighbouring States and also from Rajasthan rushed into the area and started their operations with the object of securing the precious material and becoming rich quickly.

Real 'ruby' may or may not be available in the Tumkur villages but 'ruby corundum' which is also semi-precious and valuable as an industrial abrasive is reported to have been obtained in considerable quantities as a result of feverish digging operations financed by the smugglers. It is also reported that in these villages, land owners struck deals with these traders and allowed the illegal mining to go on in their lands. In this process several middlemen also got rich and the State has been deprived of huge and unestimated amounts of royalties.

As usual, in all such illegal operations, this trade has been thriving without being noticed by the police. It is only after the nefarious trade went on for quite some time, the department of mines and geology woke up and informed the police for checking the illegal trade. But, by then, the smugglers with their rich booties crossed over to other states. Raids conducted on the premises of the illegal miners revealed traces of excavated corundum, besides huge stock of mining implements.

The Minister of Steel and Mines is requested to take urgent action to depute teams of geologists and other mining specialists to conduct surveys in the Tumkur villages regarding the availability of 'ruby' or 'ruby' corundum' and take necessary steps for the excavation of the mines there if traces of the precious material are found. Also investigations should be carried out into the illegal mining activities of traders and land owners in these villages and penal action should be taken against those found guilty.

(i) PROBLEMS OF SMALL SCALE UNITS IN WEST BENGAL ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURE OF UTENSILS AND SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur); Sir, various small scale units in West Bengal which are engaged in the manufacture of utensils, surgical instruments and also in fabrication are suffering from considerable problems in obtaining supply of stainless steel rolled sheets as a result of which production of such small scale plates are manufactured by Durgapur Alloy Steel Project which are sent to other parts of the country for re-rolling purposes and the rolled sheets are thereafter re-transported to West Bengal which, amongst other things, means extra cost as well as delay in supply apart from inadequate availability.

To meet the situation an application for industrial licence for the manufacture of stainless steel and cold rolled sheets in the joint sector has been made by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation in February 1979. The Ministry of Industry, Government of India, has acknowledged the receipt of this application and is reported to have forwarded the same to the Ministry of Steel for examination. The cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 65 lakhs for a capacity of 1800 tonnes per year. The project is proposed to be set up at Kharagpur in the district of Midnapur, West Bengal, which is an industrially backward area. In view of the great importance of the project, I urge upon the Government of India, and particularly, on the Minister of Steel and Mines, for early clearance of the project so that it may be immediately taken up at hand for meeting the urgent requirements for raw materials of several small scale units including those in joint sector.

(iii) LAVISH EXPENDITURE ON SYMPOSLA ORGANISED IN DELHI AT VARIOUS HOTELS

डा० रामजी सिंह : (भागलपुर): यह देश के लिये गम्भीर चिन्ता का विषय है कि अभी हाल में राजधानी में "जूबे विचार" के नाम पर संघोष्ठीद्वारा विदेशी वैज्ञानिकों का वीक्षक प्रदर्शन हुआ। प्रखारी रिपोर्ट