

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India has been carrying out exploration for gold in Kempinkote and Gollarahalli areas near Channarayapatna, Hassan district, where there are old workings for gold. Detailed exploration by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited has indicated a reserve of 0.515 million tonnes of gold ore of 2.96 grams/tonnes grade in the Kempinkote prospect.

(c) The techno-economic viability of exploitation of the gold prospect at Kempinkote has not yet been established. Part of Kempinkote and Hulageri villages are likely to be affected in case of mining.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Bharat Gold Mines Limited has only submitted an application for grant of mining lease to the State Government. The area has been under exploration/investigation by MECL and GSI. No order is required for declaring the area as prohibited for the purpose of carrying out mineral exploration/investigation.

Proposal to raise Emolument Ceilings for Bonus

1469. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the emoluments ceilings (Pay +D.A.) for grant of bonus to Government employees keeping in view the revision of pay scales and increase in the amount of Dearness Allowance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present ceiling is on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and is considered adequate.

[Translation]

Fraudulent Withdrawal of Money from Banks through Bank Drafts

1470. SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money withdrawn from various nationalised banks fraudulently by presenting fake demand drafts during last one year;

(b) the number of cases registered in this regard;

(c) the amount of money recovered so far;

(d) the number of cheats against whom prosecution has since been launched;

(e) the number of those who have so far been convicted and the details of sentence awarded to them;

(f) the number of cases in which the bank staff was found involved; and

(g) the measures taken to check the incidents of fraud and forgery in banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (g) The information relating to amount of money withdrawn from various nationalised banks fraudulently by presenting fake Demand Drafts and other details sought in the Question is not readily available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, as per the information readily available with Reserve Bank of India, a total number of 1586 cases of frauds including draft fraud cases were reported by the 28 public sector banks