

Exploitation of Minerals in Orissa

*439. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are mineral deposits in Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of the mineral deposits in that area; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for their commercial exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated reserves of mineral deposits in Cuttack, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts of Orissa are as follows:

(in million tonnes)

<i>Mineral</i>	<i>Cuttack district</i>	<i>Mayurbhanj district</i>	<i>Keonjhar district</i>
Bauxite	Nil	Nil	8.2
China clay	Nil	92.5	1.5
Chromite	178	Nil	4.5
Copper ore	Nil	1.6	Nil
Dolomite	Nil	Nil	0.9
Fire clay	2.2	Nil	Nil
Iron ore	48.4	16	1470
Manganese ore	Nil	Nil	28
Nickel ore	128	10	Nil
Quartz & Quartzite	1	6	2
Vanadium ore	Nil	2	Nil

(c) For commercial exploitation of the minerals, mining leases have been granted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. At present 37 mining leases in Cuttack district, 47 leases in Mayurbhanj district and 115 leases in Keonjhar district are in operation.

Ginger Products

*440. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ginger products have been developed by the Spices Board;

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(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any market survey has been conducted to ascertain the demand for these products;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) whether these products are proposed to be commercially produced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has developed some ginger products like crystallized ginger cubes, ginger candy cubes, and ginger titbits in syrup etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, a study has been made to ascertain the demand for ginger products & their various uses and applications. The study shows that such products are well received by the consumers and there is a large potential demand for them, both in the country and abroad.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has already called for offers from interested entrepreneurs for transfer of technology for commercial production.

Purchase of Almonds from USA and Afghanistan

*441. SHRI CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount involved in the import of dry-fruits from different countries in the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the quantity and amount involved in the purchase of almonds directly from USA and Afghanistan and import of American almonds from other east and West Asian Countries during the preceding three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Statements I and II showing import of Almonds and dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and including Almonds), country-wise for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are attached.

STATEMENT I

Import of Almonds country-wise during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88

Sl. No.	Country	<i>(Qty. in Tonnes)</i> <i>(Value Rs. Lakhs)</i>					
		1985 86		1986-87		1987-88	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Afghanistan	1214	179.33	2615	337.37	2417	315.70
2.	Australia	..	..	49	4.56	66	7.46
3.	Iran	432	41.95	956	90.02	984	86.57
4.	Iraq	..	..	..	..	26	2.20
5.	Pakistan	205	22.51	74	9.78	678	70.15
6.	Singapore	..	..	1	0.14	7	2.36
7.	United Arab Emirates	..	..	8	0.70	20	1.64
8.	U.S.A.	3164	737.55	1871	463.93	2028	595.90
9.	Other Countries	4	0.54	1	0.28	..	..
TOTAL		5019	981.88	5575	906.78	6226	1081.98

Source: Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports) Published by Dte. General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.