

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

(b) to (d) The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has made semi quantitative evaluation of surface sands from 1 metre to 1.5 metre depth of rivers draining siwalik hills in Uttar Pradesh between Yamuna and Kaladhungi along a belt of about 200 kms. and potential reserves of gold in surface sands upto 1 metre depth has been established at 60 kg. in Saharanpur district and 30,000 kg. in Pauri Garhwal, Bijnor and Nainital districts. The investigations are likely to be completed in 1995.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is also carrying out preliminary investigations for incidence of gold in the Siwalik rocks as well as in the river sediments in Nainital, Pithoragarh and Gorakhpur districts. The investigation is likely to be completed by 1994.

[English]

Austrian collaboration for High Speed Steel Project

*444. SHRI NAKUL NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the location for the High Speed Steel Project to be set up in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of its location, cost and employment generation capacity;

(c) whether any investment has been sought from Austria for setting up of that project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) M/s. Powmex Steels Ltd. were issued a letter of intent for setting up High Speed Steel Project in the State of

Andhra Pradesh. On the request of the company the proposed location of the project was changed to Bolangir District in the State of Orissa. The project is under implementation. As indicated by the company, the project cost is about Rs. 70 crores and employment generation potential about 290.

(c) and (d) According to the company, the technical collaborators, M/s. Bohler GmbH of Austria, have invested a sum of Rs. 46 lakhs (at current exchange rates) in the equity of the project.

Participation of Finance Ministry officials at party meetings

*445. SHRI AJIT PANJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior Finance Ministry officials are taking part at the meetings for coordination of the ruling parties and their supporting parties partners/allies to explain the Government policies;

(b) if so, who are those officials; and

(c) if not, were some Finance Ministry officials approached to take part at such meetings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Exploration of various mines in Maharashtra

*446. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Chandrapur, Garchiroli and Bhandara districts where iron, manganese, chromite, dolomite deposits have been