

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Mining & Geology, Orissa State, have been carrying out investigations in Kalahandi District of Orissa for Bauxite, Limestone, Graphite, Gemstones, Quartz, Felspar, Lead Ore and Manganese Ore. The reserves as estimated are 300 million tonnes of Bauxite and 5.6 million tonnes of Limestone.

(c) and (d) 79 mining leases have been granted for exploitation of different minerals in Kalahandi District.

The present annual production of minerals in Kalahandi District are as follows :

Limestone	.	13500 tons.
Graphite	.	200 tons.
Quartz	.	3600 tons.
Felspar	.	20 tons.

Setting up of Silver Bullion Exchange

3770. **SHRI C. SRINIVASAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any demand from the Bullion Merchants' Association for denotification of silver bullion etc. for setting up of Bullion exchanges in various important cities; and

(b) if so, the details including the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) A letter has been received from the Bullion Merchants' Association representing against notifying silver bullion under section 123 of the Customs Act, 1962 with effect from 8th June, 1990 on the ground that it would adversely affect poor artisans and petty workers engaged in the silver-jewellery trade.

Silver bullion has been notified under this section to strengthen the hands of the Enforcement agencies to enable them to combat smuggling of silver into the country more effectively. The interests of artisans and workers engaged in the silver jewellery trade have, however, been adequately safeguarded.

Spending of Foreign Exchange by Big Firms

3771. **SHRI SIMON MARANDI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the large firms of the country usually spend up to 10 times the foreign exchange they earned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are of the opinion that the growth rate of imports which is now double that of the Gross National Product should be reduced by at least thirty per cent; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Companies in India make remittances in foreign exchange for various purposes such as dividends, royalties, technical know-how fees, import of capital goods, employment of foreign technicians, training of Indians abroad etc. Under the Companies Act, companies are statutorily required to publish information on their foreign exchange remittances as part of their balance sheets. However, information on the pattern asked for has not been compiled by Government. It may be noted that many of the companies were set up for substituting imports in the past and are not export-oriented. In view of the emerging balance of payment situation, the Government has been underlining the need for all companies to participate in the export effort.

(c) and (d) Average growth rate of imports in rupee value has been about 16.4% in the last five years, and growth rate of GNP at "Current Prices" was 13.8%. Import policy is designed to avoid unnecessary imports, while at the same time ensuring that production and investment in the economy are supported.

Upgradation of Posts of Stenographers

3772. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUP-
TA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 10 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 2227 regarding applicability of ban orders in posts of Stenographers and state:

(a) whether any instruction has been issued by his Ministry for creation/upgradation of those posts of Stenographers, which were required to be created/upgraded simultaneously with the posts of officers, but have not yet been created/upgraded:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) In reply given on 10-3-89 to the Unstarred Question No. 2227 it was clarified that no separate relaxation of the ban orders is required for the posts of stenographers that may be found necessary to be created/upgraded consequent on Cadre Review, if the details of such posts are simultaneously indicated for approval of Cabinet. These instructions have been reiterated in the Guidelines for Creation of Posts issued on June 5, 1990. These guidelines, inter alia, stipulate that whenever posts are suggested for upgradation as part of a Cadre Review, the implications by way of requirement of additional personal and supporting staff as per prescribed norms should also be set out as part of total Cadre Review proposal.

Financial Assistance to Mizoram

3773. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance of Rs. 90.50 crores given to Mizoram is quite inadequate;

(b) whether the State Government are facing financial crisis and are unable to raise the Funds to meet its requirement;

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to extend more financial assistance to Mizoram; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b) The annual Plan outlay of Rs. 125 crores for 1990-91 for Mizoram is fully funded with Central Assistance of Rs. 90.58 crores and State's own resources of Rs. 34.42 crores including Rs. 23.48 crores of additional resource mobilisation. The Central assistance of Rs. 90.58 crores allocated for 1990-91 is 8% higher than that for 1989-90. However, the State Govt. have expressed difficulty in raising additional resources of Rs. 23.48 crores and have requested for additional Central assistance.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Facilities Provided for Sportsmen in Banks

3774. SHRI ASHOK ANAND-
RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided to sportsmen to encourage sports in the banks; and

(b) the number of sportsmen recruited in banks during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) There