

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : You are saying Government has carried corruption, that is wrong. That is all.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Don't shout. Your shouting will not make truth false. Therefore, I would like to know...

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Modernisation of Vizag Steel Plant

***345. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether modernisation of Vizag Steel Plant is considered necessary to enable the plant to be economically viable and to achieve its target of production; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to take up the modernisation programme and whether adequate funds would be made available by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Construction of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project is based on adoption of most modern technologies. The position is reviewed continuously and more advanced technologies to improve the economic viability of the project further, are being adopted, wherever feasible. Cost in this regard are met from the approved construction cost of the project.

Precious and semi-precious stone and gold bearing tracks in Karnataka

***346. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware

that Karnataka is having eight tracks identified recently where precious and semi-precious stones are available;

(b) whether a Committee consisting of the representatives of Mysore Minerals, Geological Survey of India and the Department of Mines and Geology was formed during 1982;

(c) if so, the findings of the Committee;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India has taken up a survey of prospective gold bearing tracks in the State; and

(e) if so, the regions where gold is found ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that precious and semi-precious stones occur along 8 tracts in Karnataka State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee recommended the formulation of investigation scheme backed by adequate personnel and financial resources on joint venture basis by the Geological Survey of India and the Department of Mines and Geology of the State Government. It also recommended the establishment of a lapidary unit for testing and polishing samples with skilled personnel and suitable equipment along with evaluation unit for evaluating the samples. The other recommendations of the Committee were to associate Hindustan Diamond Corporation and some other organisations with its activities; modification of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, and Mineral Concession Rules suitably to avoid pilferage etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As a result of these surveys, gold mineralisation has been located in the following areas of the State :—

(i) Hutti, Raichur district.

(ii) Gadag, Dharwar district.

(iii) Shimoga, Shimoga district.