

deration is also marketing some portion of the mills' production at lower prices enabled through reduced distribution costs.

Availability of Precious Mineral Resources

*1610. SHRI K. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding precious mineral resources available in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to tap them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Among the important precious and semi-precious mineral resources available in the country are Diamond, Sapphire, Emerald, Ruby, Garnet and Gold. National Mineral Development Corporation has estimated 6 lakhs carats of Diamond in Majhgawan in Panna and about 1.15 lakhs carats in Ramkheria in M.P. Diamond bearing host rocks has also been identified in other places in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and resources position is being assessed. Occurrences of other minerals include Sapphire and Ruby in J. and K. Emerald and Garnet in Rajasthan, and Ruby in Andhra Pradesh and Karanataka etc. The resource availability of these minerals is yet to be established. A number of Gold occurrences have been located in Karanataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Orissa.

(b) An integrated diamond exploration programme with experimental processing of the diamond bearing ores has been initiated by Geological Survey of India with the support of Mineral Exploration Corporation and National Mineral Development Corporation in the various parts of the country. The programme is expected to be completed in three years time. A Geological Survey of India exploration programme with the assistance of

Mineral Exploration Corporation in the Northern and Southern part of the Kolar Gold Schist belt is also in progress. Bharat Gold Mines Limited is also engaged in exploratory mining in the Southern part where occurrence of gold appears to be promising.

Minerals Found in M.P.

*611. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the names of the minerals found in Madhya Pradesh and its approximate quantity and uses thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): According to the Geological Survey of India, following Minerals have been found in Madhya Pradesh:-

| Minerals | Quantity of estimated reserves (in Million Tonnes) |
|---------------|--|
| Coal | 17,787 |
| Iron Ore | 2,764 |
| Manganese Ore | 11,76 |
| Lime Stone | 5,964 |
| Dolomite | 1,568 |
| Copper Ore | 73,58 |
| Bauxite | 193,24 |
| Phosphorite | 8,92 |
| China Clay | 8.14 |
| Fire Clay | 101.37 |

Besides the above minerals, N.M.D.C. have estimated reserves of 7.15 lakhs carats of diamond in producing mines in Madhya Pradesh. Deposits of Tin mineral, Talc/Steatite/Soap-Stone, Flourite and minor occurrence of a number of other minerals which include pyrophyllite, glass

sand, sillimanite, corundum, graphite and traces of alluvial gold have also been located.

Uses—Iron Ore, Dolomite, Limestone are used if the production of Steel. Limestone is also used for manufacturing Cement. Bauxite is used for production of Aluminium. Coal is utilised, among other uses, for power generation, steam locomotion and for blending purposes. Fire Clay and sillimanite are utilised in the refractory industry.

Tourist Awards for Travel Agents

*612. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to give Tourist Awards to travel agents who perform the best service to attract more tourists; and

(b) if so, the names of the agents or agencies who got the award in the year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). There is no scheme to give Tourism Awards to travel agents who perform the best service to attract more tourists. However, Tourism Awards are being given to the travel agents and tour operators approved by the Department of Tourism who earned the highest foreign exchange through tourism in the previous calendar year. The following travel agents/tour operators were given the Tourism Award 1979:

Category I

(Agencies who earned foreign exchange of Rs. 1 crore and above)

1. M/s Sita World Travel (India) Private Limited, New Delhi
2. M/s Travel Corporation (India) Private Limited, Bombay
3. M/s Trade Wings Limited, Bombay

Category II

(Agencies who earned foreign exchange of less than Rs. 1 crores but more than Rs. 25 lakhs)

1. M/s Cox and Kings (Agents) Limited, Bombay
2. M/s Ambassador Travels (Private) Limited, New Delhi
3. M/s Indiana Travels (Private) Limited, New Delhi

Category III

(Agencies who earned foreign exchange of Rs. 25 lakhs and below but more than Rs. 5 lakhs)

1. M/s Creative Travels Private Limited, New Delhi.
2. M/s Kai Travels Private Limited, Srinagar
3. M/s Everett Travel Service, Calcutta.

Piling up of Aluminium in Godown of MMTC

4690. PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that by April, 1980 aluminium worth Rs. 40 crores had piled up in the godowns of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation for unaccountable reasons; and

(b) if so, at a time when there is an acute shortage of the metal, will this situation lead to exorbitant black-marketing in aluminium.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir. Out of the total import of 65000 M/T of aluminium by MMTC during 1979-80, 28000 M/T was cleared through customs in February, 1980 because of heavy bunching of vessels between October 1979 and January 1980. Total sale during 1979-80 was 35000 M/T. However, the balance of 30,000 M/T had been covered