

अधक्ष महोदय : आप फिर पूछ लेना, हम तो यहां बैठे हैं, कौनसा चले गये हैं ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why only Bombay is selected, Sir?

SHRI NIREN GHOSE: He wants 'Delhi'.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

Discovery of gold bearing rocks in Tuensang, Nagaland

557 **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold bearing rocks have been discovered in Tuensang District of Nagaland;

(b) if so, whether the viability for commercial mining has been ascertained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Traces of gold have been recorded in Ophiolitic rocks in Tuensang and Phek districts of Nagaland by the State Directorate of Mining, Government of Nagaland.

Since the work is still in progress and so far the information on the occurrence of gold in Nagaland is that it is of only academic importance, the question of viability of commercial mining does not arise.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister is a Professor and an Academician. That is why he said that it is of academic importance. I want to know exactly what he actually means by 'Academic importance'—whether it can be exploited even to some extent. This I would like to know.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: When I said 'Academic importance' what I meant is this: There are various analysis to be made; there are laboratory tests to be conducted they have to make geo-physical and geo-chemical studies. Then only they

can arrive at some definite conclusion whether any indications of gold are there or not. But if we want to make it economically viable, the question of gold to be recovered from the Gold Mine must be such that it becomes viable. If it is not economically viable, there is no use of going in for it. Normally, Sir if we get 8 grammes of gold in respect of one tonnes of ore, we can say generally that it is economically viable. That we can say at the present level of international gold prices. But if we find that it is not even one gramme per tonne, it is only of academic interest; although we can say that gold exists it is not something which is economically viable.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Mr. Sanjiv Sarkar of Jadhavpur University has made certain investigations and he has stated that this is available in Manipur, Arunachal, Nagaland, bordering Burma and so on, I want to know from the Minister about this.

Burma is a friendly country; may I know whether he has informed them, whether he has given this information to Burma, and may I know whether they are also exploiting the same? If not, may I know whether on our side a complete investigation would be done or not?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We have taken various steps in regard to this investigation and if the Hon. Member is interested in knowing the details, I can give him some information about this, in regard to Tuensang district of Nagaland. The Geological Survey of India has got a programme of work during the current season to cover an area of 450 Sq. K. M. in this Tuensang district. The Geological Survey of India has also got a programme of systematic geological mapping covering 820 Sq. KM. during the current field season. Also, I have indicated in my main reply that there are some Ophiolitic rocks which exist there. These ranges of rocks start right from Ladakh, go *via* Pakistan, extend to Nagaland, Manipur, Burma and then

via Tibet this goes up to China also. In this belt, apart from gold there are possibilities of many other important minerals. All these things require detailed study and exploitation.

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आपको माइनिंग-इन्टरैस्ट तो नहीं चाहिए, रंडडी जी?

Exploration for Location of chromite reserves in Karnataka

*558. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried exploration for the location of Chromite reserves in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the results of exploration and the place where it has been carried out?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Geological Survey of India have carried out exploration for chromite in Hassan and Mysore districts of Karnataka and at present is continuing its investigation at Bhaktarhalli block in Hassan district. In addition, reconnaissance surveys for locating chromite bodies in a few more localities in Hassan and Chikmagalur district are also proposed. As a result of exploration carried out so far, a total reserve of 1.235 million tonnes of Chromite of all grades has been estimated in Karnataka which includes 0.019 million tonnes from the localities in Arsikere Taluk, 1.047 million tonnes from Chenarayapatna Taluk and 0.101 million tonnes from Holenarsipur Taluk in Hassan District and 0.068 million tonnes from Doddakanya, Doddakatur, Talur and other area in Mysore District.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: May I know from the hon. Minister the steps taken regarding the promotion of mineral-based industries in the State? I want to know particularly the

steps taken for the development of roads in that area.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is a very general question and the hon. Member knows what is the allocation made for the various projects in the Sixth Plan period.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: I do not think that the exploration work has been confined to chromite mineral only. May I know from the hon. Minister which are the places in Karnataka where the Geological Survey of India has got a time-bound programme for exploration of essential minerals such as gold, diamond, potash, etc.?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as gold is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that practically the entire gold which we are now having are from Kolar Gold mines and the Hatti Gold mines which are located in Karnataka. We have also undertaken the exploration work in certain other areas and also we have undertaken the extension of the Kolar gold belt. In regard to other minerals, I have no information readily available with me.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, Chromite is no less than the black gold of the country and it is a very precious mineral and its availability in the country is very limited. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider a proposal for exploiting this mineral through public sector units and not through the private sector only?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We are expanding the public sector in this field gradually.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: In view of the answer given by the hon. Minister, that is, as a result of exploration carried out so far, a total reserve of 1.235 million tonnes of chromite of all grades has been estimated in Karnataka, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a survey has been conducted in Chikmagalur, Chitaldurg