

sintering plants, blast furnaces, steel melting shops etc. The agreement also provides for sending Indian engineers for necessary training in the Soviet Union and for the deputation of Soviet specialists to Hindustan Steel to render technical assistance for developing the Central Engineering & Design Bureau.

(4) The agreements have not resulted in any financial disadvantage. On the other hand, the agreement with Tiajpromexport is expected to enable us to reduce our dependence of foreign assistance for either consultancy or for supply of equipment, enabling the Central Engineering & Design Bureau to do detailed project Engineering and to work out the parameters of the machinery which could be manufactured within the country. The agreement with United Engineering and Foundry Company would make indigenous manufacture of rolling mills of modern design and larger sizes possible. It would thus very considerably reduce our foreign exchange expenditure.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Opposition to Agreement on Airborne Mineral Survey in India

*1614. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is strong opposition to the Government's agreement with Bureau De Recherches Geologiques (BRGM) and Compagnie Generale de Geophysique (CGG) to conduct airborne mineral survey in India; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGLAM) : (a) and (b). There has been some criticism regarding Government's agreement with Bureau De Recherches Geologiques (BRGM) and Compagnie Generale de Geophysique (CGG) to conduct airborne mineral survey in India. The questions raised in this connection ranged from the effectiveness of airborne surveys as such in geological conditions obtainable in India to the benefits which would accrue under the contract to the country by way of training and expertise in airborne techniques and data processing and interpretation.

More important among the questions raised were whether :

- (i) the airborne surveys and techniques are at all effective in locating potential ore bearing areas in the geological conditions obtainable in India.
- (ii) airborne surveys could be conducted indigenously.
- (iii) Indian scientists would get adequate training in airborne techniques and methods of computerisation of geophysical data and analysis etc.

National Panel for Welfare of Bangla Desh Refugees

*1615. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to the suggestion made by certain political parties for a national panel to be formed to look into the welfare of the Bangla Desh refugees in India ; and

(b) if so, the aims and functions of this panel ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) We are not aware of the suggestions for the formation of any National Panel.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of Gold in India

*1616. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold production in India had remained stagnant in the last few years ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any attempts have been made to find new gold deposits in the country ; and

(d) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGLAM) : (a) The production of gold metal

during the last five years has remained more or less stagnant as would appear from the following figures :

Year	Production in kgs.
1966	3736
1967	3161
1968	3588
1969	3062
1970	3241

(b) Kolar Gold Field and Hutti Gold Mines have remained the only source of Gold production so far where average grade of Gold ore has decreased.

(c) Exploration for gold has been conducted by the Geological Survey of India in the Kolar, Hutti and Gadag Gold Fields in Mysore, Ramagiri in Andhra Pradesh, Wynad in Kerala-Tamil-Nadu, Singhbhum district in Bihar, Nagpur district of Maharashtra and parts of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Besides, investigations for Gold have also been carried out by the State Governments of Mysore and Assam in their respective States.

(d) 14 mineralized veins with large reserves of low grade gold ore have been inferred in Kolar area. Evaluation of exploration data on Gadag field is in progress. The possibility of finding further reefs in Hutti area has also been indicated. Results in Wynad area of Kerala and Lawa area in Bihar were not encouraging. Drilling has been taken up in Mysora area in Bihar. Existence of gold bearing veins has been indicated in Bhivapur area in Nagpur district of Maharashtra.

Scheme for Workers to Hold Shares in Public Sector Undertakings

*1617. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a scheme for workers to hold shares in public sector undertakings ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) when the scheme is expected to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Details of the scheme are being worked out.

Manufacture and Import of Byelarus Tractors

*1618. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 256 on the 3rd June, 1971 and state :

(a) whether an application has been made by any Indian Party for the manufacturing programme for Byelarus tractors and against such application and Industrial Licence has been granted ; and

(b) if not, whether the imports of Byelarus Tractors is still allowed contrary to Government's Policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh, has submitted an Application for establishment of a new industrial undertaking in Haryana State for the manufacture of Byelarus (50 H.P.) agricultural tractors of a capacity of 5,000 numbers per annum, in collaboration with the USSR. The application is still under consideration of Government.

(b) The Government of India have allowed import of these make/makes of tractors (i) as have a manufacturing programme approved by the Ministry of Industrial Development and Internal Trade, and/or the manufacture of which is likely to be established in the country in the foreseeable future and, (ii) which had either been tested at the Tractor Training and Testing Station, Budni and found satisfactory, or alternatively, which had been imported in the past and about which we have had sufficient experience as to their satisfactory performance under Indian conditions. Byelarus tractors were imported in the large number in the past and their performance was found satisfactory. In the circumstances, import of these tractors is not contrary to the Government's Policy.