

(e) The Government of Madras have applied for an Industrial licence for establishment of an iron and steel plant at Salem to produce 220,000 tonnes of ordinary steel and 225,000 tonnes of low grades alloy steels. The requirements of capital equipment has been estimated at Rs. 560 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 400 million. It has also been stated in the application that Japanese assistance is expected to be forthcoming for meeting the foreign exchange requirement of the plant, although the details relating to royalty, fees for technical know-how etc., would have to be negotiated.

2. No decision is being taken on the industrial licence application pending the Government of India's own decision whether a new steel plant should be set up or not.

COPPER DEPOSITS AT RAKHA AND DARIBA

*410. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been prepared to exploit the copper deposits at Rakha in Bihar and Dariba in Rajasthan;

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

(c) the estimated cost of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the present, the Scheme for development of the Rakha Copper Deposit envisages a production of 1,000 tonnes of Ore per day. It is proposed to concentrate the ore at the site and have it smelted elsewhere. The estimated yield of copper metals is about 3,500 tonnes per annum. Simultaneously, it is proposed to carry out further detailed exploration for constructing a larger mine.

The Scheme for developing the deposits at Dariba envisages opening of a mine to produce 250 tonnes of Ore per day and also for the installation of a concentrator. The estimated yield of copper metal from these deposits is 1,400 tonnes of copper metal per year.

(c) The estimated capital cost of the Mine at Rakha for the limited production of 1,000 tonnes of Ore per day is Rs. 0.98 crores. In addition, the detailed explora-

tory works are estimated to cost Rs. 1.51 crores. The estimated capital cost of the Dariba Project is Rs. 1.81 crores.

IMPORT LIBERALISATION

*411. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the effects of import liberalisation on the performance of industries, especially in regard to exports;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to introduce any changes in the existing policy regarding import liberalisation; and

(d) if so, the changes proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

EXPORT OF SALT FROM GUJARAT

*412. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an export target of 10 lakh tonnes of salt from Gujarat has been fixed for 1967-68 as against the present rate of 3.5 lakh tonnes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation, through whom export of salt from Gujarat is made, is considering to reduce the export price from 22 shilling per tonne to 21 shilling per tonne; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. An export target of only 5 to 6 lakh tonnes of salt for India as a whole has been fixed for the year 1967-68.

(b) Export price of salt to Japan for 1966 and 1967 contracts has been the same viz. \$ 2.94 per tonne (equivalent of shilling 21 at pre-devaluation rates of Pound Sterling). No reduction in prices is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.