

(c) whether Government propose either to start a steel mill nearby or send the ore to any of the existing steel plants instead of exporting as ore; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (d). Bellary-Hospet iron ore deposits are situated close to Tungbhadra Dam near Hospet. Sufficient power is available at present for foreseeable mining purposes. The reliable source of water in the area is also the Tungbhadra Dam and its canal network, which are primarily designed for irrigating the neighbouring agricultural lands in view of very low rainfall in the area. Iron ore being found in high hilly ranges, water has to be pumped from below.

2. As regards comparative economic advantage of exporting the iron ore from those mines and of exporting steel made out of the quantity being exported, as already stated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4497 on the 20th August, 1968, it is difficult to compare the two in view of the wide disparity of investment and other parameters involved. Iron ore is being exported with a view to earn valuable foreign exchange whereas setting up of Steel Mill would need to be justified on its economic viability, domestic and export demand etc. However, in the context of setting up of new steel works, the Government obtained feasibility studies on Goa-Hospet, Bailadila-Visakhapatnam and Neyveli-Salem region. No decision on setting up of new steel plants or its location has so far been taken. The Steering Group on Iron and Steel which has been appointed to help the Government to formulate its Fourth Plan development programme for iron and steel is expected to formulate recommendations in this regard for consideration of the Government. A decision regarding the setting up of a new steel plant and its location will be taken only after the recommendations of the Steering Group are available.

#### Railway Accidents

\*795. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted

any inquiry into or search for the causes of the increased Railway accidents in the recent past;

(b) whether it is a fact that the accidents have largely occurred due to acts of errors and omissions on the part of Railway staff;

(c) whether efficiency checks are held at all levels with a view to recoup the efficiency which has fallen in Railway recruitments due to various factors; and

(d) the measures taken for minimising the accidents which are due to causes over which control can be exercised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The trend of train accidents is always kept under constant scrutiny, causes determined after proper inquiries and remedial measures taken to prevent their recurrence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Standard of recruitment has not fallen on the Indian Railways. Adequate measures are taken to see that railway servants continue to remain efficient during their service and only competent staff reach higher grades.

(d) Inquiries are held into all railway accidents and in the light of findings and recommendations necessary steps are taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents. As inquiries held into railway accidents reveal that failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for causing accidents, a four-pronged safety drive—educative, psychological, punitive and technological—has been going on to arouse the safety consciousness of the staff and to prevent accidents.

#### रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जलपान स्टाल

\*796. श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार का विचार कुछ व्यक्तियों के एकाधिकार को समाप्त करने का है जो पिछले कई वर्षों से रेलवे स्टेशनों पर जलपान स्टाल चला रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनकी शर्तें क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि भोजन व्यवस्था समिति ने अपने प्रतिवेदन में यह सिफारिश की है कि रेलवे स्टेशनों पर खोले जाने वाले प्रस्तावित नये स्टालों को वर्तमान स्टालों के पालकों को ही आवंटित किया जाना चाहिए; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**रेलवे मंत्री (श्री जे० मु० पुनाचा) :**

(क) और (ख). बूक प्राक्कलन समिति की सिफारिशों के परिणामस्वरूप खान-पान के ठेकेदारों के काम के क्षेत्र को कम करने के लिए 1956 में कार्रवाई की गयी थी, इसलिए खान-पान ठेकों के संबंध में इस समय कोई एकाधिकार नहीं है। फिर भी यह सच है कि कुछ मामलों में कुछ व्यक्ति या फर्म कुछ एक स्टेशनों पर बहुत अधिक समय से खान-पान का ठेका लिए हुए हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि उनका काम सन्तोषजनक रहा जिसकी वजह से प्रत्येक अवधि की समाप्ति पर उनके ठेके का नवीकरण किया जाता रहा है। ऐसे पुराने ठेकों को समाप्त करने का कोई विचार नहीं है जो जनता के प्रति सन्तोषजनक सेवा के कारण बिना किसी व्यवधान के कायम हैं।

(ग) और (घ). रेलवे खान-पान और यात्री सुविधा समिति, 1967 ने अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ यह सिफारिश की थी कि ठेकों की भर्य-शमता सुनिश्चित करने और योग्य केटरों को प्राकषित करने के लिए एक ठेकेदार की 'होल्डिंग' की अधिकतम सीमा बढ़ाकर 6 यूनिट कर दी जाये। इस सुझाव को सरकार ने मान लिया है और क्षेत्रीय रेलों को, इस सिफारिश पर अमल करने की हिदायत जारी करते समय, यह स्पष्ट कर दिया गया है कि जिन स्टेशनों पर खान-पान के नये यूनिट बनाने का पर्याप्त प्रीच्य है, ऐसे स्टेशनों के वर्तमान ठेकेदारों को, जिनकी सेवा अच्छी रही है और इस सिफारिश के अनुसार जिनका कार्यक्षेत्र बढ़ाना आवश्यक है, प्रतिरिक्त काम दिया जा सकता है।

### Survey for Minerals in Orissa

\* 797. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire mineral bearing areas of Orissa have been properly surveyed by the Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the latest survey reports of the deposits of various mineral ores in Orissa;

(c) whether any survey has been made near Chilka, Banpur, Khandapada, Ranpur and Daspalla areas in the district of Puri, in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Preliminary investigations for important mineral bearing tracts in Orissa have been carried out by the Geological Survey of India and detailed investigation in promising locations are in progress.

(b) As a result of survey carried out in different parts of the State, several mineral deposits have been recorded.

A large number of mineral deposits have been surveyed viz. asbestos, base-metals, bauxite, chromite, gold, graphite, iron ore, limestone, manganese ore and nickel ore.

(c) Yes, Sir. Geological survey has been carried out near Chilka, Banpur, Khandapda, Ranpur and Daspalla areas in the Puri district.

(d) No major mineral occurrences have been located in the areas mentioned above.

### National Coal Development Corporation

\* 798. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss which the National Coal Development Corporation suffered since its inception on account of irregularities, thefts, stock shortages and fires;

(b) whether these matters were looked into and if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether a general assessment of the working of the Corporation has been done; and