

AN. HON. MEMBER: At least on loan basis.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Don't talk about loan basis because they may lift you tomorrow and put you in the museum and return as only a loan.

SHRI L.P. SHAHI: If you persist thinking like that, that is possible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have mentioned about two specific things of historical importance, namely, the Bhavani Sword and Kohinoor Diamond. What is the reply?

[Translation]

I can say that we will pursue such things in future.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If somebody loots something and later on the person is apprehended, all the articles he had taken away are recovered from him. They have not taken away those articles legally and we have also not given them as presents. They had taken them forcibly. They had captured power forcibly and we also got back the same forcibly. It is for them to return the articles honestly. these are the articles of booty.
[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: After the partition of India, the looted property had been returned.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If something is looted, it has to be returned.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Employment Potential of Panthal Dead Burned Magnesite Plant

*662. **SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN** (Udhampur): Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment potential of the proposed Dead Burned Magnesite plant at Panthal (Jammu and Kashmir State);

(b) the ratio of local employment vis-a-vis non State employment;

(c) the total capital investment and share of the State Government;

(d) the number of persons from Jammu and Kashmir state presently working in the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited;

(e) the time by which work on the project is likely to be started; and

(f) the estimated expenditure on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (f). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this project is still under preparation. Preliminary estimates indicate an employment potential of around 300 persons.

(b) There is no prescribed or fixed ratio for local employment vis-a-vis non-State employment.

Prescribed guidelines will be followed when recruitment of staff is done.

(c) The total capital investment will be known after the DPR is ready. Preliminary estimates indicate that this investment would be of the order of Rs. 30 Crores.

(d) 4 persons.

(e) Preliminary work on this project has already commenced. However, the work will be taken up on full scale after the DPR is approved.

- (f) The expenditure on this project upto the end March, 1989 is about Rs. 75 lakhs.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: I thank the Government, the Prime Minister and the Minister for having taken a decision to start this project in Panthal in Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know whether any deadline has been fixed for the presentation of the DPR and also the amount of foreign exchange which will be saved when the project goes into production.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I think the hon. Member wants to know whether any deadline has been fixed for the completion of the project. This is a project the first of its kind in this State. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Detailed Project Report is under preparation and during the current year, it will be finalised. It will take two and a half years to complete the project from the date of start. Once the project is fully operational we will be saving about Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 crores of foreign exchange per year.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: I want to know the number of technical and non-technical people who will be employed in this project from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I have already given the figures about the number of people who will get employed. 60 persons will be of the level of officers and supervisors and workers will be of the order of 240. I can tell the hon. Member that all of them will be Indians first and Indians last.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: I wanted to know the number of labourers to be employed in this project belonging to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Perhaps the hon. Member wants to know as to how many local or permanent residents of the State will be employed in this project. I am not unaware about the sensitivity of the matter. However we will keep this in view as and

when the appointments are made in the project.

Price Increase in cost of Ships

*664. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY†:
DR. B.L. SHAILESH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sharp price increase in the cost of ships has seriously affected the efforts of the Shipping Corporation of India and other shipping companies to add to the existing tonnage;

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation; and

(c) the tonnage expected to be acquired and added to the Indian fleet during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

- (a) The increase in cost of ships has also been accompanied by increase in freight rates and there is no clear evidence that the viability of investments in this sector has been adversely affected. Increased prices however require higher initial investment which causes difficulties.
- (b) Increased price of ships is a global phenomenon outside the sphere of Government's control or influence. Government have simplified the procedure for acquisition and eliminated delays in processing application for ship acquisition.
- (c) 3.81 lakhs GRT is expected to be acquired and added to the Indian fleet during the current year.