

Supply of Kudremukh Iron ore to Bahrain

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*542 **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :**
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to State :

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and Bahrain under which iron ore from Kudremukh will be exported from India this year ;

(b) if so, the total quantity of iron ore to be exported ;

(c) to what extent this will ease the production position at Kudremukh iron ore plant ;

(d) whether some other countries have also agreed to import Kudremukh iron ore ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (e) : A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c) A long term agreement was signed in September, 1985 between Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Arab Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (AISCO) Bahrain, for supply upto 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore concentrate in a year, for 5 years. However, the AISCO plant has not been operating since September, 1986 and hence the off-take envisaged has not materialised. Should this plant be restarted Kudremukh will have an opportunity to supply iron ore concentrate ; in that case the production performance of Kudremukh would improve significantly.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Kudremukh has been able to book orders for iron ore (concentrate as well as pellets) from several other countries, including Japan, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia Hungary, Australia and Turkey. During 1987-88 (upto February, 1988), Kudremukh exported 27.32 lakh tonnes of concentrate and 6.60 lakh tonnes of pellets.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Sir, it is understood that the Kudremukh project is

not having sufficient demand after Baharain failed to purchase the sufficient quantity of iron ore. If that is so, it could be diverted to other countries like Japan. I would like to know whether the Kudremukh Project is running at profit or loss.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : At present it is running at loss.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Is it a fact that the Kudremukh Company has formed a pipeline from Kudremukh to Mangalore to transport Iron ore concentrate ? I learnt that it is not functioning properly. So, what action has been taken against the concerned persons for non-functioning of the pipeline ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is a fact that there is a pipeline to transport the Iron ore concentrate but there is no such information with me that it is running properly. It runs properly.

Need to instal Tube-wells in States

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*546. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :**
SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture planners in a National Conference held in Delhi recently have emphasised the need to instal six lakh shallow tubewells in the States for harnessing of water resources, especially ground water;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this recommendation;

(c) if so, the State-wise installation of tube-wells;

(d) the State-wise acreage of land to be brought under irrigation as a result of the installation of these tube-wells ;

(e) whether Government have given any additional financial assistance for this purpose to States; and

(f) if so, the State-wise details thereof ?