

and 3,52,000 tonnes in private sector. The Primary Producers in the country take their decisions in respect of production of aluminium based on their commercial judgement. Besides aluminium metal and its articles thereof are under Open General licence (OGL) of Export Import Policy. Each individual is free to do import and export of aluminium metal and articles thereof depending upon their commercial judgement. Similarly the decision to absorb the technology is dependent on the judgement of each enterprise.

Lignite Mining by MECL

3115. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of drilling for lignite being undertaken by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.;

(b) by when the entire work will be completed;

(c) the result obtained uptill now; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost lignite mining?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) is engaged in the search and proving of Lignite resources in India in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Pondichery, Jammu & Kashmir etc. It undertakes the geological studies, geological surveys both surface and borehole, analytical studies culminating in exploration report. It has completed several projects on behalf of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Ministry of Coal, State Public Sector Undertakings of Gujarat and Rajasthan etc. in Different states.

(b) The exploration is a continuous process.

(c) As a result of exploration taken up by MECL over 24,314.26 million tonnes of additional Lignite resources have been added to the national mineral inventory in the states of Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Pondichery, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, etc.

(d) MECL is making efforts to locate and prove several areas so that the mining entrepreneurs can have the optimal choice. In

that manner, MECL are boosting Lignite mining in the country.

Mineral Deposits in Bihar

3116. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India (GSI) have conducted any survey to find out the new deposits of minerals in the State of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of places where mineral deposits have been found with details of the minerals and their estimated quantities therein;

(d) by when Government propose to start extracting these minerals; and

(e) whether Government propose to have any private sector participation therein?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During recent years GSI has explored for gold, basemetals (copper, lead, zinc) apatite, rare earth element and dimension stone and coal in Bihar. The details are as follows:-

Basementals (i) hesatu—belbathan area 0.43 million tonnes of copper lead, zinc mineralization with grade of 3.93% total metal content.

(ii) Singhbhum copper belt, Singhbhum district, Bihar.

(a) Khandandmgri area 0.5 to 0.8 million tonnes of copper with grade between 0.6 to 1%.

(b) Patkita - Jabalatola area 0.2 to 0.5% copper (uneconomic).

(c) Kharswan block 0.5% copper with 5 to 6 ppm silver. Gold - Dalma volcanics, Gold values 0.46 ppm (parts per million) and stream sediments 555 ppb to 1200 ppb (parts per billion) Sonapet valley 0.4 million tonnes.

Babaikmdi Samjamdih area around Chandil, Ranchi a zone of 4.25 m width with gold values form 215 ppb to 3.45 ppm has been located.

Bhanjori basin Discontinous senses of Quartz Pebble conglomerate extending for 2.5 Km. With gold values as high as 2400 ppb have