

Foreign Investment in the Mining Sector

2365. SHRI MENTAY :
PADMANABHAM :
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have actively sought foreign investment in the mining sector;

(b) if so, what success has been registered in attracting foreign investment; and

(c) the details of proposals under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy placed before this House on 5-3-93 liberalises further the conditions pertaining to foreign investment in the mining sector. Effect of these will show after consequential amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have been made.

Licence issued to 'Star Lite Project'

2366. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have licensed 'Star Lite Project' for processing and manufacture of copper in District Ratnagiri in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that this plant is likely to create environmental hazards for the surrounding area; and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No licence is required for processing and manufacture of copper in terms of Department of Industrial Development Notification No. 477 (E), dated 25th July, 1991. However, as required in the aforesaid Notification, M/s. Sterlite Industries India Limited, Bombay has filed Part (A) of Industrial Entrep-encus Memorandum on 21-2-1992 for setting up of a unit at Village Zadgaon/Shirgaon, District Ralnagiri for processing and manufacture of copper.

(b) and (c) The manufacture of copper is a polluting industry. However, the impact of pollution cannot be assessed before the project starts its operations.

Granite Processing Units in Maharashtra

2367. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the statewide availability of Granite deposits in the country;

(b) what is the number of Granite processing units in the state of Maharashtra; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the last three years on export of granite ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The reserves of granites so far estimated by the respective State Governments are as follows:—

State	Estimated reserves	Remarks
(Figures in Million Cub. Mts.)		
1. Andhra Pradesh	3.0	This represents estimation of reserves in a few areas. Estimation work is going on. at present to have a more comprehensive assessment of reserves.
2. Assam	43.5	
3. Bihar	19.0	
4. Karnataka	55.7	
5. Rajasthan	0.08	
6. Tamil Nadu	15.9	This represents estimation of reserves of black granites. There is no estimation of reserves of coloured granite yet.
7. West Bengal	7.0	
8. Orissa	—	Estimation of reserves not yet. taken up.