

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme including all its construction work, is fully funded by Government of India. However, the boundary wall of each Navodaya Vidyalaya complex is constructed with 50 per cent financial assistance from the State Government concerned. In Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kasargod, the Parent Teachers Association decided to collect funds on a voluntary basis for construction of the boundary wall as the consent of the State Government to bear 50 per cent cost has not been received.

(c) and (d) The funds had been raised on a voluntary basis by the Parent Teachers Association of the Vidyalaya and no request for refund has been received.

Female Infanticides in Bihar

@3420. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar has the highest rate of female infanticide in the country;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the results thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to reduce the female infanticide in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) While female infanticide

is understood to be practised in certain parts of the country, there is no data to indicate its extent or state-wise trend.

(b) Government has initiated a multicentric nation-wide study of the problem. A study of the problem in Bihar has also been sponsored.

(c) The report of the study for Bihar has not been received.

(d) Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country, including Bihar, for the welfare and development of women and girl children. Further, advocacy attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl children so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness in various issues relating to girl children in selected districts of Bihar. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000) of the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS infrastructure.

3421. [Transferred to 23rd August, 1993]

3422. [Transferred to 26th August, 1993]

Expansion of Khetri Smelter Plant

3423. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Ltd. (H.C.L.) propose to expand the Khetri Smelter Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Hindustan Copper Limited has conceived a

proposal for expanding capacity of its existing smelter at Khetri Copper Complex from 31,000 tpa to 1 lakh tpa. For this purpose, the company has commissioned a detailed feasibility study.

Amendment to mines and minerals act, 1957

3424. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating an overhaul of the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) whether the Federation of India Mineral Industries, New Delhi, have demanded simplification of the procedure, renewal and transfer of leases with a view to provide greater flexibility to the private mine owners to feed the domestic industry poised for greater growth in not too distant a future; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard particularly regarding the demand for period of all minerals the mining lease should be granted for 20 years and also an early legislation of amendment of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is considering amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 taking into account the suggestions received from various State Governments/Union Territory Federation of Mining Associations and the Mining Industry and in the wake of Statement on Industrial Policy, 1991 and the National Mineral Policy, 1993. As per Section (8) of the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 Mining Leases can be granted for a period not exceeding 20 years.

Gold Mines in Bihar

3425. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some gold mines have been found in the State of Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have started mining in these mines; and

(d) if not, by when mining activities are likely to be started in these gold mines of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) in Porojharna block, Kunderkocha area, Singhbhum District, Bihar have established a possible reserve of 7741 tonnes of gold ore, of which 3223 tonnes of gold with an average grade of 4.19 g/t gold and 4518 tonnes with an average grade of 19.49 g/t gold. The ore bodies are highly erratic in size, shape and grade.

Exploration so far carried out by State Government of Bihar in Sono Block, Karmatiya village, Munger district have indicated low gold values between less than 0.1-1.8 g/t gold. The data obtained so far are not sufficient to establish reserves.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The exploration data obtained so far are not sufficient to arrive at conclusion regarding economic viability of the deposits.

Application recommended by Karnataka for mining lease

3426. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Centre for approval, the mining lease application