

that I would be answering it to later question; but I will do it now— we have two sick units, Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizers, where capacity utilisation for variety of reasons—mismatch of equipment, poor technology, power failures, labour trouble — is being rather low. But in other plants like Ra?htriya Chemicals, in Trombay, they are doing very well; NFL is doing very well; Madras Fertilizers is doing very well.

In the cooperative sector, we are doing very well. The capacity utilisation is 100 per cent. Similarly, in the private sector.

I am not at all happy with certain of our plants in the public sector which are not working as well as they should be working. The losses last year were high but we are reducing these losses next year by about 50 per cent. Only three are running in loss.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Sir, I have given my name first.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already allowed twenty minutes to this question. Next question now.

Exploration of New Mineral Deposits

*224. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to explore new mineral deposits in Orissa, Bihar and in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether in view of the future requirements, Government propose to formulate a perspective plan to explore mineral deposits; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Survey of minerals is a continuous process and exploration of mineral deposits including new mineral deposits are being undertaken based on the results of such surveys in various parts of the country including Orissa, Bihar and North-Eastern States by Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., State Directorates of Geology and Mining etc. as per their respective programmes. GSI is carrying out regional mineral assessment programme mainly with i view :

(i) to locate additional prospects of deficient minerals in the extension areas of known deposits or in new geological environments ; and

(ii) to remove regional imbalances.

(b) and (c) The sub-group on exploration, constituted by Government, under the working group on non-ferrous metals for formulating the Seventh Five Year Plan, has *inter alia* suggested a strategy for exploration upto 2000 AD. The total requirements of drilling and mining for exploration from 1990 to 2000 AD are projected in the region of 156 lakh metres and 6 lakh metres respectively.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister : what are the priorities by the Geological Survey of India and other agencies in regard to exploration of new mineral deposits in the Seventh Five Year Plan

i» Orissa, Bihar and the North-Eastern Region ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : Sir, exploration for coal jets the highest priority. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, the GSI's main thrust is exploration for base metals and strategic minerals, metals like Tin, Tungsten, precious minerals, metals like gold and diamond, ferrous minerals like iron-ore, manganese, chromite and nickel; fertiliser minerals like phosphorite and apatite, fuels like coal, non-metallic minerals like graphite, mica, kyanite sillimanite, in the States of Orissa, Bihar and the North-Eastern Region. Special efforts are made for locating new mineral deposits by collecting available information and studying modern ideas, concepts and techniques.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that a group was constituted by the Planning Commission for studying the life of the identified mineral resources ? I would also like to know whether they have given any suggestions in regard to exploration and prospecting of these important strategic metals like copper, gold, tin, bauxite etc., in this region ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : Sir, Based on the projected production level in 1994, a group constituted by the Planning Commission has worked out the life of identified reserves. It may be stated that the reserves of bauxite, chromite, non-coking coal, dolomite, limestone and iron-ore is comfortable. Reserves of gold, kyanite, sillimanite, metallurgical (coking) coal, manganese (low silica), Manganese (high-grade), is poor. Reserves of Copper, lead, zinc ores and phosphorite ores are not even comfortable to meet the production targets. Reserves of potash, tin, tungsten and some other metals are non-existent or too poor for consideration in adequacy Calculation.

SHRI P.N. SUKUL : Mr. Charirman, Sir, the Kumaon, Garhwal and Bundelkh and region in U.P. is very rich in minerals and not much exploration seems to have been done in this region. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what minerals have so far been found in this region and what is the plan of the Government for further exploration ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : The question is in regard to Bihar, Orissa and the North-Eastern Region. I need fresh notice.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has answered about the geological surveys for finding out metals, ferrous, non-ferrous and other minerals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there have been any surveys carried out by satellites? If not, I would like to know whether he has any plan for exploration of minerals by satellites ?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, Remote sensing by satellites is a technique that is used up to a certain extent but the actual impact of this technique on mineral exploration is limited. Of course, we are very well aware of the advances made and we are also trying in our own way to see that we can use remote sensing. But the manner in which we had expected it to progress, I do not think, it has progressed quite that fast.

श्री कैलाशचरित मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, बिहार में 24 प्रकार के खनिज पाए जाते हैं। भारत में जितने खनिज हैं उनका 42 प्रतिशत बिहार में है। बहुत पहले से मांग होती रही है कि वहाँ जियोलोजिकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया का हेड आफिस रखना चाहिये। हेड आफिस नहीं हुआ, बल्कि आधे दर्जन राज्यों में डिवीजनल आफिस हो गए,

लेकिन आज तक बिहार में, उस खदान के इलाके में जियोलोजिकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया का डिवायजन्स सेंटर नहीं बना। क्या भारत सरकार जियोलोजिकल सर्वे आफ इंडिया का डिवायजन्स सेंटर बिहार में रांची के अन्दर बनाने को सोच रही है ?

श्रीमती रामदुलारी सिन्हा : यह बात सही है कि बिहार और उड़ीसा एक ही स्टेट हैं मिनरल्स के लिए। जहां तक भारतीय सदस्य का प्रश्न है, पटना में 3-4 साल से जियोलोजिकल सर्वे का से सब-रीजनल आफिस खोल दिया गया है।

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र : श्रीमान, मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied I will give you a chance. (Interruptions). All right, Mrs. Pandey.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY I would like to know from the hon. Minister the minerals surveyed during 1985-86 by GSI in Bihar.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: At present the GSI is undertaking a detailed exploitation of gold in Bihar. Sir, the survey is a continuous process. In 1985-86 survey for gold has been done near Sone in Munger and for placer gold in Ranchi district. For chromite and platinum survey has been done in Jajchatu and other areas in Singhbhum district. For diamonds survey has been done in Palamau and Gumla district. Geo-technical investigations are going on in parts of Palamau, Dhanbad and Hazaribagh districts. Proposals for investigation of new deposits for graphite in Simulfcala (mungher), lepidolite and in Giridih district, Vermiculite in Kibri, Hazaribagh district, Felspar in Khijri block Ranchi district and soapstone in Chenagi Deoghar are under the consideration of the State Government of Bihar.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Has the Geological Survey of India

found any uranium deposits in Mizoram since India is depending upon USA, Canada and other European countries to run our power plants? Has the Government done any study in this respect?

MR. CHAIRMAN/ relevant. Yes, Mr. Mohapatra.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAI TRA: Sir, the rates of royalty on minerals payable to the State Government are prescribed by the Central Government under the law. The law prescribes that the rate cannot be revised more than once in four years. Mineral is an important source of non-tax revenue in Orissa for which the State Government has requested the Central Government to amend the law, permitting to review the rates at least once in two years instead of four years. I want to know, what has happened to the request of the State Government to amend the law?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, the Rajya Sabha has recently passed a Bill reducing the period from four years to three years, but it is yet to go to Lok Sabha.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमान, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र जी ने कहा कि बिहार और उड़ीसा में सबसे ज्यादा मिनरल्स हैं, बिहार में ही अकेले 42 प्रतिशत हैं। लेकिन जियोलोजिकल सर्वेक्षण का जो डिवायजन्स आफिस है, जो आपने वहाँ पर बनाया है, उसने कोई काम नहीं किया। पलामू में मिनरल डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड बना है लेकिन वह भी आज तक कोई काम नहीं कर सका है। जब कि वहाँ दर्जनों मिनरल्स हैं, स्मॉकलेस कोयला भी मिलता है। लेकिन सर्वेक्षण की दृष्टि से बिहार के हर एक जिले में मिनरल्स हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे अभी मिजोरम की बात कही गई, बिहार में यूरेनियम, थोरियम सब पदार्थ उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन उसको

इकानामिबल बनाने के लिए या उसका यूज इलेक्ट्रिसिटी में करने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। जो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके सर्वेक्षण व्यवस्था करके सब मिटररुस की पूरी जानकारी हो, इसके लिए रीजनल आफिस के साथ-साथ कुछ और व्यवस्था करना चाहते हैं ?

श्रीमती रामदुलारी बिहारी : सर, मैंने अभी जवाब दिया है कि सब-रीजनल आफिस खोल गया है। इट इज फंक्शनिंग वेल।

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: I would like to ask the Minister through you, Sir, if he is aware that in Ladakh area...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. This question relates only to Orissa, Bihar and North-eastern States. You must ask a question relating to the main question. Next question. Question No. 225 Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

Financial crisis in Coconut Development Boards

*225 SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coconut Development Board is facing serious shortage of funds;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that due to drastic cut in plan allocation and annual budgetary support, the Board has discontinued a number of package schemes affecting the coconut plantation of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A comprehensive scheme i.e. Integrated fanning in coconut small holdings in Kerala for productivity improvement, has been formulated by the Coconut Development Board for the Seventh Plan in lieu of package schemes.

This is an integrated programme covering all aspects, such as replanting of diseased and unproductive palm?, promoting irrigation facilities, multi-species cropping and providing effective extension and technical support.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, as you know, coconut is the mainstay of Kerala economy and it is facing severe crisis because of fall in productivity, fall in the prices of coconut and coconut oil and because of lavish import from abroad of coconut oil by the Government. It is in this perspective that I would like to ask the Minister to let us know—

(a) what was the allotment for Coconut Development Board for the last three years because he has not replied actually whether there is a decline; (b) the subsidy:..

MR CHAIRMAN: You lose your second supplementary if you put two questions.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am putting it as (a) and (b).

MR CHAIRMAN: No (a) and (b) of your first question. You stop there and get the answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I do not say (b); in continuation of (a) I ask I agree to your decision Sir. In continuation to it I ask our hon. Minister to say whether subsidy for coconut palm plantation has been withdrawn, whether assistance for replanting plants which dry up because of root-wilt disease has been withdrawn and whether the proposal for setting up a bottling plant in Kerala has been shelved because of funds shortage.