

found that the project as originally conceived would be uneconomic, and it became necessary to take up a re-assessment of the ore reserves. The question of implementation, of the project would thus depend on the additional ore reserves established and other relevant parameters including availability of power, demand for aluminium etc. The expenditure incurred on the scheme upto 1983-84 is about Rs. 194 lakhs.

Steps taken to Establish Communal Harmony

537. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister, of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have so far been taken to establish communal harmony and promote the cause of national integration in various States of the country during the last three years; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken against those who were found guilty of, spreading communal hatred during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) Efforts to eradicate communalism and promotion of national integration continue to receive the highest priority by the Govt. Measures to maintain communal harmony and thereby promote national integration are reviewed from time to time. The National Integration Council and its Committees have been addressing themselves to the task of monitoring national integration and maintaining communal peace in broad terms. Pursuant to the deliberations of the Council and its Committees in the past and on the basis of experience gained of communal incidents, comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for implementation.

(b) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations that great importance should be attached to timely action on objectionable writings in newspapers and periodicals for the maintenance of communal peace and harmony.

538. [Transferred to the 27th July, 1984].

Hike in price of aluminium

539. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disproportionate hike in prices of aluminium has caused resentment both in industry and to consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has resulted in steep rise in the price of aluminium utensils thereby affecting the lower income group; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): I (a) to (c) Since the last revision of controlled prices of aluminium on 3rd December, 1981, the State Electricity Boards increased the rates of power tariff applicable to the Aluminium industry. There were increases in the costs of other inputs too. The issue of revision of aluminium prices was examined by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) after a detailed study of the cost structure of the aluminium industry. Based on the Bureau's recommendations the Government decided to increase the prices effective from 9th May, 1984. The increase in the price of primary aluminium, however, is less than that of the wholesale price index of all commodities in general during the period January, 1982 to July, 1984. Although there is no sta-

tutoiy control on-- the price_s of alu-
minium utensils, the increase in the
•prices of primary aluminium is re-
ported to have affected the prices
pf utensils to a lesser extent.

**Finalisation of West Bengal plan for
the Year 1984-85**

540. SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-
RA: Will the Minister of PLAN-
NING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual plan for
West -Bengal for the year 1984-85
s been, finalised; and

(b). *H* not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The West'
Bengal Annual Plan for 1984-8.5 has
ot been finalised so far.

(b) lbe Government of West Ben-
gal have not been able to satisfy the
'Planning Commission about the
liability of resources 'of an order
anywhere near the Plan size .they
e asked for.

**Sea-Bed Mining in the Central Indian
Basin in the Indian Ocean**

541. SHRIMATI AMARJIT

KAUR:

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
made any , survey of the Central
Indian Basin in the Indian Ocean for
the exploration of the nodule deposits
under the sea-bed;

(b) whether any investment has
been' made for the development and
testing of systems for mining, and
processing;

(c) whether Government have
chalked out a programme for ex-
ploration and development work of
sea-bed mining in the Central Indian'
Basin in the Indian Ocean; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b)

and (c) above be in the affirmative,
what is the prospect of nodule de-
posits in the Central Basin of Indian
Ocean and how much Government have
invested in carrying out survey,
in exploration, • processing, buying of
ship_s and technical know-how for the
purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC
ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS
AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a)
to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The . National Institute . ot
Oceanography, Goa, on behalf of the
Department of Ocean Development,
has carried out extensive surveys in .
the Central Indian Ocean covering an
area of more than 3 million square
kilometres. For this purpose, the
Indian built research vessel 'Gavesh-
ani', two ships chartered from inter-
national market and the • recently
acquired oceanographic research ves-
sel 'Sagar Kanya' have bee_n used.
On the basis of these surveys the
Government of India have filed an
application with the United Nations
With details of two plots of approxi-
mately 150,000 sq. kilometres each.
Of these, as per rules, the Preparatory
Commission of the International Sea-
bed Authority wiH allot one pioneer
site to India. The .nodule deposits in
the identified sites are of good quality,
with average nodule abundance of ap- .
proximately 5 kilograms per square
metre, containing about 2.5 per cent
of nickel, copper and cobalt, which
compare very favourably with the
prescribed international standards.

For different aspects of the pro-
gramme *i.e.* survey^ exploration, pro-
cessing, procurement of ships and the
development of technical know-how,
the Department of Ocean Develop-
ment has made a total investment as
under: