

found that the project as originally conceived would be uneconomic, and it became necessary to take up a reassessment 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):

(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-

tutory control on the prices of aluminium utensils, the increase in the prices of primary aluminium is reported to have affected the prices of utensils to a lesser extent.

Finalisation of West Bengal Plan for the Year 1984-85

540. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

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

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The West Bengal Annual Plan for 1984-85 has not been finalised so far.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have not been able to satisfy the Planning Commission about the availability of resources of an order anywhere near the Plan size they have 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 exploration 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 deposits in the Central Basin of Indian Ocean and how much Government have invested in carrying out survey, in exploration, processing, buying of ships 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 of 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 'Gaveshani', two ships chartered from international market and the recently acquired oceanographic research vessel 'Sagar Kanya' have been 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 approximately 150,000 sq. kilometres each. Of these, as per rules, the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea-bed Authority will allot one pioneer site to India. The nodule deposits in the identified sites are of good quality, with average nodule abundance of approximately 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 programme i.e. survey, exploration, processing, procurement of ships and the development of technical know-how, the Department of Ocean Development has made a total investment as under: