

(c) what are the details of ocean wealth found so far as a result of these studies?

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

(b) Surveys of the continental shelf of India and the deep sea are underway. As a result of the surveys carried out for the polymetallic nodule, India has been given the status of "Pioneer Investor" by the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea.

(c) Within the continental shelf the deposits of titanite, phosphinite, magnetite, monazite etc. have been identified in the sea bed.»

Alumina project in Andhra Pradesh

504. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 8 lakh tonne alumina plant project in Andhra Pradesh has been shelved; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE). (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Aluminium Company Ltd.

505. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Aluminium Company Ltd., a large multinational company has not paid over Rs. 25 crores for 1980 to 1983 to the Aluminium Regulation Account as per Aluminium Control Order.

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, till the end of February, 1984;

(c) whether any arrear has been paid, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether interest has been charged on arrears, if so, at what rate;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps have been taken against the company for deliberate failure to comply with the Aluminium Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE); (a) and (b) Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL) did not pay the dues of Rs. 19.42 crores to the Aluminium Regulation Account for the period from September, 1980 to May, 1981.

(c) INDAL started paying the arrears in instalments in April, 1982. During the period from April, 1982 to August, 1983, it paid Rs. 4 crores, leaving a balance of Rs. 15.42 crores yet to be paid.

(d) and (e) The question of levy of interest on arrears is under consideration.

(f) On 3-2-1984 INDAL was directed to pay the balance dues in 48 equal monthly instalments, each amounting to Rs. 32,12,525/-. INDAL was also asked to furnish a bank guarantee, initially valid for one year, for the arrears of Rs. 15.42 crores. INDAL has agreed to comply with the above directions.

Mis. Bengal Potteries Ltd.

506. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question 584 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1983 and state:

(a) whether the proposals for final disposition of the Mis. Bengal Potteries Ltd. has since* been processed;

(b) if so, the decision in this regard; and

(c) whether the period of takeover of the management which is going to expire on 14th March, 1984 has been extended, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI):

(a) and (b) No decision has yet been taken on the final disposition of Messers Bengal Potteries limited.

(c) it has been decided to extend the period of takeover of management upto 30th June, 1984 under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951.

Closure of iron ore mines in Orissa

507. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI LA3LI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the major factors of repeated massive notices of closures and retrenchments of various iron ore mines in Orissa, Goa and other places is due to declining purchase of ore by the SAIL;

(b) the number of iron ore mines which have given notices of closures and retrenchments in between January, 1983 to end of February, 1984 and the details thereof, mine-wise;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to stop these closures and retrenchments and the details thereof and results of such actions; and

(d) the number of such mines which have been either wholly or partially closed and the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c) In 1983-84, the procurement of iron ore by SAIL from non captive mines in Orissa is expected to be about 20 per cent less than the average annual purchase

in the last five years. The figures are given below:—

(quantity in lakh tonnes)	
1978-79	8.55
1979-80	10.48
1980-81	13.40
1981-82	13.40
1982-83	11.79

SAIL does not purchase iron ore from Goa. The lower off-take of iron ore from the Eastern Region is due primarily to a decline in exports through the Paradeep Port in the last few years; exports through the Paradeep Port (which serves the principal iron ore mining area in the Barajamda region) declined from a level of 17.25 lakh tonnes in 1978-79 to a level of 9.84 lakh tonnes in 1982-83.

According to the information available, only 26 iron ore mines in Orissa threatened to close down their mines from October 17, 1983 unless the MMTC continued procurement of iron ore in the Eastern Region beyond December, 1983. The MMTC has continued to procure iron ore beyond December, 1983 and so no actual closures have been reported. According to the information available no notices of closure have been received from other iron ore mining area.

The MMTC has been instructed to explore new markets for the export of iron ore to countries willing to nominate small vessels to lift ore from the Paradeep Port. The MMTC has been able to persuade South Korea, German Democratic Republic & Romania to lift about 7 lakh tonnes of iron ore from the Paradeep Port in the current year. This is in addition to lifting from the Japanese Steel Mills, which have already lifted 1.7 lakh tonnes iron ore from the Paradeep Port. Therefore, as against the earlier anticipated export of about 7 lakh tonnes of iron ore through Paradeep, the MMTC expects to achieve exports of about 9 lakh tonnes from this Port during 1983-84.