

banks in respect of 378 large sick units as at the end of December, 1979 and reported to the Reserve Bank of India, 197 units or about 52 per cent of the total, were sick due to mismanagement, and management deficiencies (including diversion of funds, infighting, lack of marketing strategy), though in many cases more than one cause might be responsible for the sickness.

(b) and (c) As per policy guidelines circulated in October 1981 the Administrative Ministries concerned with various industries have a pivotal role in monitoring sickness and coordinating action for revival and re-habilitation of sick units. The financial institutions have also been asked to strengthen the monitoring system so that it is possible to take timely corrective action to prevent incipient sickness. In regard to small scale sector the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries have taken up a survey of small scale units with a view to assessing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector and identifying various causes of sickness.

(d) Efforts are made by the banks and financial institutions to prevent units from becoming sick and to revive sick units on the basis of diagnostic studies. Government also consider proposals for assistance as may be required by the banks and financial institutions in their efforts to revive sick units. As a result of these efforts the interest of workers would be safeguarded by preventing the industrial units from becoming sick or from closing down. However, where these efforts do not succeed the workers are entitled to retrenchment compensation under the Industrial Disputes Act whenever they are retrenched due to closure or lay off.

(e) Action can be taken against Directors of a company and other persons responsible for management of the company to the extent their conduct of business attracts the provisions of the Companies Act.

Exploration of Kerala sea Shore for Gold

295. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to explore the Kerala sea shore for gold; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). A part of the coast of Kerala has been included for exploration by Geological Survey of India during 1982-83 field season with special reference to gold concentration. This investigation is being undertaken as there are indications that some gold from the Nilambur-Wynad areas may be transported to the nearby sea-shore.

Tightening up of Security Measures in the Atomic Plants

296. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the atomic plants in the country which remained closed during the last two years together with the periods for which these were so closed;

(b) whether Govt. have conducted any enquiry into such closures to find out the possibility of sabotage by foreign countries, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to tighten up the security measure in such plants?

THE PRIME MINISTER SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: (a) In 1980-81 and 1981-82 for the equivalent of 18 days in the Tarapur Atomic Power Station

and for 133 days in the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station there was no generation of power.

(b) We know the reasons for outages & do not suspect sabotage by foreign countries.

(c) Security measures at the installations are under constant review.

*297. [Transferred to the 2nd August, 1982.]

Research in the field of Exploitation of Alternative Resources of Energy

298. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to conduct research in exploiting alternative resources of energy with the collaboration of other countries;

(b) if so, what are the names of those collaborating countries and the fields in which the proposed research is likely to be carried out; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c) There is Cooperation in research in alternate energy sources with some foreign countries under bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements with them. The countries

and the fields of existing or proposed cooperation are as follows:

Australia . . .	Solar Energy
Federal Republic of Germany . . .	Solar Energy and Wind Energy
France . . .	Solar Energy
Italy . . .	Solar Energy
U.S.A. . . .	Solar Energy, Hydropower and Biomass
U.S.S.R. . . .	Solar Energy

The cooperation has resulted in the exchange of scientists, of information, of equipment and prototypes etc. In some cases, specific systems are being developed and tested jointly.

*299. [Transferred to the 6th August, 1982.]

Cement issued to Orissa

*300. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Cement issued to Orissa in 1980-81 and 1981-82;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Cement allocated to Orissa in the above two years were very inadequate for the State;

(c) whether the cement quota for Orissa in the first six months of 1982 has been raised; and

(d) if so, what are the details about the allocation made so far and proposed to be made in 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) 1980-81	—	4,20,200 tonnes
1981-82	—	4,05,600 tonnes