

(f) whether it is a fact that the Centre have not given their consent to this piece of legislation by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a), (b) and (f) The Government are examining the constitutional and other aspects of the Bill as passed by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature.

(c) Rehabilitation assistance to these persons in accordance with the scheme approved by Government has already been given.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Discovery of Potash

310. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has conducted research work in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to discover Potash;

(b) if so, the total areas (in Sq. Km.) searched by G. S. I. for the above purpose;

(c) the total quantity of Potash reserve expected to be found there; and

(d) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India has been conducting investigation for Potash in Western Rajasthan only, and not in Madhya Pradesh and has so far covered 20,000 sq. kms. for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Minor indications of Potash in the form of polyhalites have been noticed in several boreholes. Only recently a rich Potash zone of 50 cms. thickness has been encountered near Ganganagar. Investigations are still in progress and it is premature at this stage to make an estimate of the potash reserve in the area.

Setting up of a Steel Plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka

311. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th February, 1982 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision for the setting up of a Steel Plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nickel project in Orissa

312. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a Nickel project in the Sukinda Area of Orissa;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to make a spot study for setting up such a project in Orissa for the proper utilisation of nickel ore deposited near the Sukinda Valley; and

(c) what are to details thereof?