

(5) The banks' interests are to some extent protected in that guarantee cover is available for advances to the priority sectors to a large extent.

Copper production

768. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present annual output of copper in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to boost its production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The present annual output of copper in the country is of the order of 19,000—20,000 metric tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Development of Aluminium Industry

769. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Research and Development Centre for the development of aluminium industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited had entrusted a study for setting up of an Aluminium Research and Development Centre to the Soviets, in response to which the Soviet Organisations had submitted a report in August, 1980 giving recommendations for setting up of such an Institute. The Government have formulated a proposal to get a feasibility report for setting up of a Research, Development and Design Institute for

Aluminium in India prepared through assistance of UNDP which would inter alia take into account the recommendations in the Soviet report.

Opening of fair price shops in Delhi

770. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open more fair price shops in Delhi in the near future; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Delhi Administration it is proposed to open one fair price shop for every 4000 cereal units in the Union Territory of Delhi. Altogether 920 more shops would be opened according to this criteria. Vacancies have been notified as per the Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1981 and applications received are under process.

Setting up of Pelletisation Plants

771. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether Government have since decided to set up two iron ore pelletisation plants, one at Mangalore and the other at Bailadilla, without first locating the foreign buyers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the financial implications involved in setting up the plants; and

(c) what steps Government propose to make these plants economically viable?