

Statement

Systematic Geothermal exploration was initiated by the Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) in 1973. Since then, the following seven multi-disciplinary Geothermal Exploration Projects have been taken up for intensive study and investigation:—

- (1) Puga-Chjumathang Geothermal Project, J & K;
- (2) Parbati Valley Project, Himachal Pradesh;
- (3) Beas Valley Geothermal Project, Himachal Pradesh;
- (4) Sutlej Valley Geothermal Project, Himachal Pradesh;
- (5) Sohna Geothermal Project, Haryana;
- (6) Alaknanda Geothermal Project, Uttar Pradesh;
- (7) West Coast Geothermal Project, Maharashtra.

The assistance of the U.N.D.P. is being utilised in the execution of Parbati Valley Geothermal Project, Himachal Pradesh, since 1976. The Central Electricity Authority, Department of Power, is the chief counterpart agency for this U.N.D.P. project, and the G.S.I. has been entrusted the responsibility of exploration activities under the Project.

A Geothermal Energy Coordination Committee is functioning under the Ministry of Energy for coordinating and monitoring geothermal exploration and utilisation studies carried out by various agencies, including G.S.I.

At the present stage of investigation, in the country, it is premature to give an accurate assessment of the recoverable potential of this source of energy.

These investigations are part of G.S.I.'s normal activities. An estimate of the actual expenditure is not possible as G.S.I.'s budget is not drawn

up on a functional basis, but with reference to manpower, material and equipment.

Exploitation of Iron ore of Bailadila

1308. **SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM.** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to exploit iron ore deposits at Bailadila for domestic use besides its export to Japan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It is proposed to exploit Bailadila Deposits for supply of iron ore to Vizag Steel Plant in addition to exports to Japan. Bailadila Mines will provide initially production of 3.3 MT of ROM (runs of mine) per annum, which can be stepped up to about 5.0 MT ROM at a later stage.

Development of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh

1309. **SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop some more tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Tourism plan is being reviewed with a view to gearing up facilities to meet a two-fold increase in the next five years. Among the measures contemplated to achieve this objective are (i) identification and development of travel circuits and (ii) provision of adequate infrastructural facilities at the centres falling in these travel circuits. For this purpose discussion

were held with the State Tourist officials, and details are being worked out by the Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh. Their proposals are awaited.

Construction of an airport at Hubli

1310. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to build an airport at Hubli is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when the airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to construct an aerodrome at Hubli. This project is likely to be considered in the context of Third Level Air Service which is under consideration of the Government.

Import of Natural Rubber by State Trading Corporation

1311. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what is the quantity of natural rubber imported by State Trading Corporation during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): A quantity of 21,100 tonnes of natural rubber was imported by State Trading Corporation during 1979-80.

Fare structure for passengers travelling abroad from India

1312. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an air ticket for travel by Air India from a city overseas to India costs less than that obtained in India for the return journey over the same route; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to set right this imbalance in fare structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Generally the fares to India are not less than the corresponding fares from India. But, certain Group Inclusive Tour Fares from Europe to India are lower than the corresponding fares in the reverse direction. Government is aware of this imbalance in fares, but it is not possible to eliminate these imbalances at one time, as air-fares are dependent on fluctuating factors like market requirements and currency relations. Efforts are being made to eliminate/reduce such imbalances progressively.

Funds to the State Government for supply of water at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1313. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Minister of Steel and Mines, Government of India to provide adequate funds to the State Government during the current year for the execution of Yelluru water supply scheme, which is required for supply of water at the operational stage of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Planning Commission, who were moved in the matter, have since informed the Government of Andhra Pradesh that they have agreed to a provision of Rs. 10 crores (as originally proposed by the State Government) for the Yelluru Water Supply