

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Misuse of Steel Quota

181. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that racketeering by a few steel firms to corner the entire export quota has resulted in India losing the initial advantage in exporting bars and rods to Middle East and other countries;

(b) the total amount of exports of these items originally proposed to be made this year and for how much of these items orders have so far been secured and the actual exports made against them so far; and

(c) the reasons for such poor export performance in respect of these items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) No such malpractice has come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) Originally only nominal export was envisaged. Even though there have been uncertainties in the export market, orders secured so far add upto 18,830 tonnes.

Hardship faced by defence personnel in forward areas

182. SHRI R. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army and Air Force personnel in the Banner and other forward areas in the Western Sector are put to severe hardship due to lack of adequate facilities of accommodation; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to relieve this hardship faced by the defence personnel in the forward areas of the Western Sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, some difficulty is being experienced in these areas due to shortage of accommodation. All possible efforts are being made to provide suitable accommodation within the limitations of the resources.

Mineral deposits in Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh

183. SHRI R. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the geological survey for mineral deposits in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take during the Fifth Five Year Plan period to exploit the mineral resources in that region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) Asbestos, barytes, steatite, copper-lead, diamond, iron ore, gold, clays and limestone are the important minerals discovered in Rayalaseema area as a result of geological surveys.

(b) To help in the formulation of schemes for the exploitation of the economically feasible deposits, detailed evaluation of the Asbestos, Barytes and Steatite resources has been taken up by Geological Survey of India. The diamond investigations in Wajrakarur, Anantpur district and base metal investigations in Zangamarajupalle, Cuddapah district are being continued. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up the Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation Ltd. for exploitation of minerals in the State.

M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. are examining the possibility of exploiting the gold "in the Yeppamana mine area. Their activities