

Mineral deposits in Maharashtra

249. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Geological Survey of India visited Maharashtra and discussed with the State Government officials about exploitation of mineral deposits in that State; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) The Director General, Geological Survey of India visited Nagpur in Maharashtra on routine inspection visit on 21st June, 1974. No discussions were held with the State Government officials regarding exploitation of mineral deposits in that State.

(b) Does not arise.

Book entitled "Debacle in Baltistan"

250. SHRI B. D. BARMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1821 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 1974 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed examination of the book, entitled 'Debacle in Baltistan' which was written and published by Shri S. Mahajan, who claims to belong to that area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The examination of the book 'Debacle in Baltistan' is in progress.

Bhutan King's Talks in India

251. SHRI S. A. HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the King of Phutun has recently visited India; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of talks held with him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS):

(a) Yes, Sir. H. M. the King of Bhutan paid a State visit to India from 18th to 28th December, 1974.

(b) The talks covered a wide range of bilateral and international issues in which India and Bhutan share common and joint interest. They were held in an atmosphere of warmth, mutual respect and deep understanding and there was a complete identity of views.

Indian Ambassador's talks with U.S. Defence Secretary

252. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Ambassador to the United States has recently met the U.S. Defence Secretary in Washington; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the talks held?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ambassador made a courtesy call on the U.S. Defence Secretary on 17 January, 1975. It is not customary to disclose details of such conversations, which are confidential in nature.