

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India is contemplating a Thermal Survey in the area with U.N.D.P. Assistance; and

(c) if not, what steps have been taken to expedite the final report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Preliminary investigation for mercury occurrence near Badagara area, Kozhikode district, Kerala has been completed by the Geological Survey of India and the report is under preparation.

The proposal for a Thermal Survey for Mercury deposits in this area is under consideration of the Government.

#### EXPLORATION OF BAUXITE IN NILESWAR

1097. SHRI S. KUMARAN:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final report on the occurrence of Bauxite in Cannanore District (Kerala) has been received from the Geological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the progress made in regard to the the exploration of Bauxite in Nileswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exploration for bauxite in 4 blocks at Nileswar in Cannanore district of Kerala is in progress since October, 1970. Probable reserves of 1.76 million tonnes of Bauxite with 40 to 60% alumina content has tentatively been estimated in Block I where detailed drilling has been completed. Pitting for confirmation of drilling in Block II is in progress and Bauxite horizon upto 6.35 metres thickness has been intersected in 23 boreholes. Preliminary test drilling | 11  
RSS/72—4

in Blocks III and IV has been completed and follow up work is in progress.

#### STUDY OF STEEL MAKING PROCESSES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1098. SHRI M.KAMALANATHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered delegation recently visited various countries to study steel making processes and other technological problems; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the studies made by the Delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Steel Secretary visited some Plants in USA and Western Europe to study the latest development in technology of stainless steelmaking, with a view to select a process which would be suitable for application in the new steel plants proposed to be set up at Salem.

(b) In their Report submitted to the Government they have recommended suitable processes for steelmaking, choice of hot rolling mill and have made recommendations for reducing the capital and operating costs of the Salem Steel Plant.

#### RESERVES IN MINES

1099. SHRI JAMNALAL BERWA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the mine-wise reserves of the mines containing a total of more than 15 million tonnes of coking coals along with the names of each of such mine; and

(b) how much of the total extractable reserve is ready for extraction and what is the cost of such extraction from each mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND