

**AUCTION OF DHEMO-MAIN COLLIERY**

435. SARDAR AMJAD ALI:  
SHRIKALYAN ROY:

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

(a) whether the Dhemu-Main Colliery has been put up on auction by the West Bengal Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the National Coal Mines Development Corporation to purchase this Colliery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) The Dhemu-Main Colliery has not been put on auction so far by the West Bengal Government.

(b) and (c) Certain legal difficulties have arisen regarding purchase of this colliery by N.C.D.C. at an open auction. However, the question of purchase of the property at an open auction is being actively pursued by N.C.D.C. with the Government of West Bengal and the matter will be finalised as soon as the legal issues involved are sorted out.

**COPPER ORE RESERVE FOR KHETRI COPPER PROJECT**

436. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the copper ore reserves from which the Khetri Copper Project is proposed to be fed is sufficient to work the proposed factory for barely 42 days; and if so, the estimated reserves and the daily requirements of the Khetri Copper Plant when it commences production; and

(b) what further steps are being taken to explore and exploit additional reserves of copper in and around the area; and

(c) the persons who have been assigned with the work of exploration of the reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Madam. The position actually is that ore reserves so far proved in Khetri and Kolihan Mines are 59 million tonnes, which would be sufficient to feed the plants at full capacity for 20-25 years, which is the normal life of a mine. There is every likelihood of ore reserves position getting improved with further exploration.

(b) Hindustan Copper Limited, who are responsible for the exploitation of copper ore deposits at Khetri and Kolihan Mines are also exploring these deposits further for additional ore reserves. The Company has also taken up the exploitation of Dariba Copper Deposit in District Alwar, Rajasthan. In addition, the exploitation of Chandmari Copper Deposit near the Khetri Copper Project, is expected to be taken up by Hindustan Copper Limited, shortly. Besides, the Geological Survey of India are also exploring other areas around Khetri Copper project for finding additional Copper ore deposits.

(c) The Geologists of the Hindustan Copper Limited in respect of the mines of the Khetri Copper Project, Dariba Copper Project and Chandmari Deposit and the officials of Geological Survey of India in respect of the other areas around Khetri Copper Project.

**ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA BY CHINA**

437. SHRI M. S. OBEROI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China is carrying on anti-Indian propaganda blaming India for the recent Indo-Pakistan war and allied issues;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and