

allotted but was sold in public auction held on 8-12-1957, to Messrs. Rama Body Builders, for Rs. 1,50,000. The area of the land, according to the site plan, is 2152.5 Sq. yards

(b) and (c) The land was in occupation of the firm before the auction took place and it is liable to pay damage charges for use from the date of occupation till the date of acceptance of bid. The date from which it has been in occupation of the firm is being ascertained. The damage charges will then be calculated and necessary recoveries made.]

#### COTTON PRODUCTION

916. SHRI K. SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of agricultural experts of his Ministry has submitted a new plan for increasing production of cotton :

(b) if so, the main recommendations of this Committee;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on these recommendations; and

(d) if so, whether they will be implemented with effect from the 1971-72 cotton crop year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI ANNASAHB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has recommended that as a short term plan to raise production of cotton an Intensive Cotton District Programme should be taken up in selected areas. The main features of this programme are contained in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee are being considered by the Government of India

#### STATEMENT

The main features of the Intensive Cotton District Programme are indicated below :—

1. *Irrigated Area*.—The main strategy for securing additional production would consist of :—

- (i) Coverage of the entire area by pure seed especially of the new varieties.
- (ii) Maintaining optimum plant population;
- (iii) Weed control,
- (iv) Adoption of full plant protection schedule on prophylactic basis; and
- (v) Fertilisation at the recommended level

This would be supported by an extensive net work of demonstrations incorporating all the new technology. For making the inputs available to the farmers within their easy reach under the agency, it is proposed to open more sale depots for all inputs and to involve private agencies by providing assistance for storage facilities, credit, commission etc. Suitable incentives would also be provided on the inputs. Field staff would be employed on an intensive scale to ensure individual farmer approach. The total area to be covered by 1973-74 will be 5.60 lakh hectares.

2. *Rainfed Area*.—The programme envisaged for the rainfed area will consist of Intensive pilot demonstrations of improved practices on compact blocks. The total area to be covered by demonstrations will be 1.40 lakh hectares.

#### LOCATION OF NICKEL DEPOSITS IN SUKHINDA, CUTTACK, ORISSA

917. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of deposits of nickel has been located in Sukhinda area, Cuttack District, of Orissa;

(b) whether Government have under study a proposal to set up a nickel plant in Orissa; and

(c) if so, whether the proposal has been accepted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Detailed investigations so far carried out by the Geological Survey of India have placed the inferred reserves of nickel ore in Sukhinda area at 15 million tonnes of which 10.6 million tonnes in Kansa block analyse more than 1 per cent nickel and 4.41 million tonnes analyse between 0.84 per cent to 1 percent nickel.

(b) and (c) The feasibility report for development of the deposits prepared by the Consultants (M/s Chemical and Metallurgical Design Company) has been recently received and is under examination. It is only when the result of this examination is available will it be possible to take an investment decision for the setting up of a plant on the basis of this ore.

DELAY IN TACKLING OVER DHEMO MAIN COLLIERY BY N.C.D.C.

918. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :  
SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 374 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1970 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the discontent among workers of coal mines because of the delay in taking a decision by the National Coal Development Corporation to take over Dhemu Main Colliery, which was closed in October, 1968;

(b) on how many occasions the officials of the N.C.D.C. have visited the colliery and whether any report has been submitted so far; if so, details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for this delay and by when Government is expected to take a decision; and

(d) whether a fire broke out in one of the coal seams in this period and if so, the loss of coal as a result thereof?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) to (c) The Dhemu Main Colliery belongs to a Private Company and the National Coal Development Corporation have no authority to take it over straightaway. At the request of the West Bengal Government, the Corporation officials visited the mines on 4 occasions to assess its techno-economic possibilities. Their reports show that although the colliery still has substantial reserves which could be developed with further investment, it had incurred heavy liabilities before closing down and there are large public demands and other claims which remain unsatisfied. The matter is presently under consideration of the West Bengal Government.

(d) A fire was reported to have broken out in January, 1971. No loss of coal has, however, taken place so far because of timely action by the Coal Board in sealing off the mine entry.

ESTIMATED RESERVES OF MINERALS IN ORISSA

919. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total estimated reserve of major minerals in Orissa is around 5,000 million tons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or contemplated to be taken by Government to exploit these resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. The total estimated inferred reserves of some major minerals in Orissa namely iron ore, coal, limestone, dolomite, clays, chromite,