

(b) if so, the grounds on which the licence was cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) Tata Iron and Steel Company informed Government in May, 1963 that they were abandoning the project. Accordingly they were asked to surrender the licence, which they did.

O.N.G.C. DELEGATION FOR IRAN

350. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission left in the middle of October last for Iran to explore the possibilities of securing oil prospecting concessions in that country; and

(b) if so, what is the background for the negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) and (b) The question of participation in exploration for crude oil in Iran has been under examination for some time and in this connection a delegation from India paid a visit to Iran in October this year.

ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION

351. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give additional assistance not exceeding Rs. 2 crores over and above the Central assistance already promised for the State plans for 1963-64, for accelerating the programme of primary education; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance which Government propose to give to the States?

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THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix XLV, Annexure No. 14.]

QUARRYING OF COAL IN RAMGARH AREA

352. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a proposal for quarrying coal in Ramgarh area of Bihar State with the help of some foreign concerns; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) A coal mine in Ramgarh, with an annual target of 1.5 million tonnes, is proposed to be developed by the National Coal Development Corporation, under the United States Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) programme. M/s. Pierce Management Corporation of the U.S.A., deputed by the A.I.D., have prepared a project report for the production of 1.28 million tonnes by open-cast (strip mining) and 0.24 million tonnes from under-ground mines, at a total cost of about Rs. 6.75 crores. The foreign exchange component of the cost will be Rs. 2.9 crores, and the A.I.D. authorities are presently considering the question of granting a loan of this amount to cover the cost of import of machinery and equipment.

WAGONS FOR COAL MOVEMENT

353. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient wagons are available for the movement of coal;