

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision despite of the fact that the mini cement plants have tremendous socio-economic benefits;

(c) in case the above decision is on a temporary basis, the exact period for which the finance will not be made available; and

(d) whether the fate of small entrepreneurs who have substantially gone ahead both in terms of project work and monitoring investment have been duly considered before taking such a decision ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of an assessment of the total capacity already created in the industry, including in the large-scale sector, coupled with proposals in the pipeline vis-a-vis demand, it was considered appropriate to regulate the tempo of setting up of mini cement plants and accordingly all the primary lending institutions were advised not to entertain any fresh proposal w. e. f. 15th January, 1985.

(c) and (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has undertaken a review of the viability of a few assisted mini cement plants in the context of the current cost structure besides ascertaining the effective steps taken for implementing the project, extent of expenditure incurred, receipt of licences approvals etc. by the pipeline cases. On completion of the review/scrutiny IDBI will take appropriate decisions about extending refinance assistance to the pipeline cases.

**Tea Industry Urged to Raise  
Prkouction**

6002. **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have instructed tea industry in the country to frame and adopt a long-term plan for raising production;

(b) the response by the Industry to this proposal; and

(c) the steps initiated towards this direction ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :** (a) to (c). Discussions are constant'y being held with the tea industry regarding steps to raise production. Draft 7th Plan, under which target of production has been fixed at 766 M. kg. at the end of the Plan, has also been formulated in consultation with the industry. The budget proposals for 85-86 contain a provision for facilitating plough back of pre tax profits for development of the gardens. A task Force has been constituted under Deputy Governor Reserve Bank to suggest measures for ensuring smooth measures for ensuring smooth flow of funds from financial institutions for development of plantation crops including tea. Investments in tea are reported to have gone up considerably in last two years resulting in a record increase in production.

**Exploration of Gold and Iron-Ore  
in Kerala**

6003. **DR. K. G. ADIYODI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of experts has been sent to Kerala to explore gold and iron ore in Kerala;

(b) if so, when and its results;

(c) whether there is any proposal to carry out commercial exploration of gold and iron in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :** (a) and (b). U N. Experts participated in the investigation of gold and iron-ore in parts of Kerala under a programme of assistance available between 1977-1984. The

Geological Survey of India has also carried out exploration for gold and iron-ore in Kerala during 1965-1978.

So far the following reserves of iron ore and gold have been estimated :

Mineral	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Area
Iron-ore	882.9 (with 31 to 41% iron)	Khozikode and Mallapuram districts.
Gold ore (placer)	30 million cubic metres of gravels with an average grade of 0.1 gm of gold per cubic metres of gravels.	Nilambur valley
Gold (Primary)	3.0 lakh tonnes of ore with an average grade of 4 gm. of gold per tonne of ore.	-do-

(a) and (d). The State Government of Kerala proposes to take up pilot scale mining to establish the commercial viability of mining of alluvial gold deposits and is in contact with the Government of India regarding the financing of this project. Presently there is no proposal for commercial exploitation of the iron-ore deposits, which are of low grade.

**Infra-Structural Projects for Falta Export Processing Zone In West Bengal**

6005. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time-bound action plan has been drawn up by Union Government to implement all the infrastructural projects for the Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the target date set in this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI PA SANGMA): (a) and (b). The construction of boundary wall is expected to be completed by end of 1985. Other essential facilities such as construction of Standard Design Factory (SDF)

administrative buildings besides provision of power, drainage, sewerage, drinking water, roads etc. are targetted to be completed by the middle of 1986.

[Translation]

**Benefit to Small Exporters Through Programmes of Trade Development Authority.**

6006. SHRI MOHAR SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State :

(a) the total annual estimated expenditure of the Trade Development Authority ;

(b) whether the gains accruing to country's export trade from this Authority are commensurate with its expenditure ;

(c) if so, the details of gains accruing to the country ;

(d) the number of sub-offices of this Authority ;

(e) the programme of the Authority for providing incentives to small exporters ;