

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has developed a comprehensive programme for the selective exploitation of minerals and other marine non-living resources within the EEZ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan is being implemented for the commercial exploitation of precious minerals in the sea-bed within the EEZ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are seeking cooperation from foreign countries and the domestic private sector in marine survey and exploration; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has a comprehensive programme for Sea-bed survey within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. It has been carrying out systematic reconnaissance seabed survey within the EEZ of India in the Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, Arabian Sea and within the territorial waters along east and west coast.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Junk Food in India

5649. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open the Indian market to multinationals selling "junk food";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the domestic market from invasion by these multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). While there is no clear definition as to what could be called as "junk food", the Government have approved investment proposals of foreign companies for manufacture and selling of various food products based on cereals, meat and poultry, fish, milk, etc. These companies have to operate within the framework of Indian laws and have to compete with the others in the market.

[*Translation*]

Underground Mining

5650. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita production of underground mines had been decreasing over the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to increase the productivity of these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI