

**Report of Expert Committee on
Gandhamardan-Plant of BALCO**

3869. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO:

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

(a) whether an Expert Committee was appointed to go into the location of the Gandhamardan Project of BALCO in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the report and reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) A high level committee of experts headed by Dr. B.D. Nagchaudhuri was appointed by the Government of India on 5th September, 1986, to study in depth the impact of the proposed development of Gandhamardhan Bauxite Deposits in Orissa on ecology and environment including inter-alia the water falls, streams, medicinal herbs, temples and the tribal population.

(b) Yes; Sir. The Committee has submitted its report on 29th January, 1987.

(c) The Committee "after careful consideration of all the issues involved" has recommended that the "Bauxite mines in Gandhamardhan hills be opened with as little delay as possible". The Committee has further recommended that in order to mitigate adverse environmental impacts certain measures listed below are to be scrupulously implemented.

- (i) That public relations of BALCO should be strengthened, specially, those aimed at developing the human resources of the local

people and making common cause with them by helping them in meeting their needs and aspirations, should be carried out by sensitive officers with sociological and environmental training who should be located at Paikmal.

- (ii) That the mining activity be carried out strictly according to the reformulated Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- (iii) That a Monitoring Committee be specially constituted to ensure strict compliance of the reformulated EMP.
- (iv) The EMP should be reviewed at least once a year and modified whenever necessary, by a high level committee whose recommendations shall be mandatory.
- (v) Immediate steps should be taken to stabilise the road section already carved, in order to prevent possible slips boulder slides and siltation.
- (vi) That no further widening of the road section straddling the Happy Point be undertaken and new re-alignment wherever necessary be made by following the natural contours.
- (vii) In view of the tested easy rippability of bauxite, not more than a single charge cluster, suitably sequenced and not exceeding 300 kgs. at a time, should be exploded.
- (viii) The need for re-locating the crusher plant may be examined, such that it is not on a hill-top or a hill slope location so that the dust and vibration are kept within manageable limits.
- (ix) A continuous ecological monitor-

ing of the swath of devegetation of transporting bauxite by repe-way should be carried out.

- (x) In view of the ageing foundation and structure of the ancient temples of Nrusinghanath and Harishankar, immediate steps should be taken to strengthen them appropriately.

The matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Reforms in the Examination System for Disabled Children

3870. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI PARASRAM BHAR-
DWAJ:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring about reforms in the examination system for the disabled children;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective in view, and

(c) whether the examination system is proposed to be made flexible so as to be suitable both for the disabled and normal children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Programme of Action prepared for implementation of the NPE, 1986, *inter alia*, states that 'flexibility in examination is a must for severely disabled children'. It is proposed to provide guidelines through the NCERT for adjustment and adaptation of evaluation procedures and examination modalities with reference to the specific needs of the disabled children so that they are not at a disadvantage in examination as compared to the normal children.

[*Translation*]

Amount of Health Budget spent on Indian System of Medicines

3871. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent of the rural population of India receive treatment through traditional system of medicines;

(b) if so, the details regarding the percentage amount of the health budget spent on the ancient Indian system;

(c) whether this amount is inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase the allocation for traditional system of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No comprehensive survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to find out the percentage of rural population of India covered by traditional systems of medicine.

(b) and (c). The estimated allocation made for Indian Systems of Medicine i.e. Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha is of the order of Rs. 1954.54 lakhs during the Sixth Plan and Rs. 3086.00 lakhs during the Seventh Plan. This is about 3.67% of the Health allocations during the Sixth Plan and 3.44% during the Seventh Plan.

(d) the total allocation made for the Indian Systems of Medicine during the Seventh Plan has gone up by about 50%. More allocations for this system of medicine can be considered taking into account the requirements and resources, in future.