

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to set up a pilot project to produce oil and other products from coal for which West Bengal Government requested the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of the said proposal; and

(d) the reasons for delay to clear the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :  
(a) to (c) The proposal of West Bengal Govt. for preparation of "Techno-Economic Feasibility Report" was recommended by Government of India for United Nations Development Programme assistance. This project has been taken up and is under implementation by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

Setting up of any such plant would arise only after the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report becomes available.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Shortage of Small Coins in Raniganj, West Bengal

325. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints of acute shortage of small coins and low denomination notes in Raniganj area of West Bengal and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There has been reports regarding shortage of small coins and currency notes of

low denominations from certain parts of the country including Raniganj area of West Bengal.

(b) Government have taken various steps to meet the demand of coins and currency notes. Incentive schemes alongwith the increased working hours have been introduced in all the three Mints, i.e. Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad and two Currency Note Presses at Nasik Road and Dewas. As part of modernisation and expansion scheme, twenty two new coining presses are being procured for the three Mints and two production lines at Currency Note Press, Nasik Road and balancing equipments for the Bank Note Press, Dewas are being installed. A second shift in the Calcutta Mint is being introduced. It has also been decided to establish a new Mint and a new Currency Note Printing Press and steps are being taken to implement this decision.

As a result of the improvement in production of small coins and Currency and Bank Notes, the Reserve Bank of India has stepped up releases of these coins and currency notes in the various regions including West Bengal consistent with the available supplies.

#### Import of Magnesite

326. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :  
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have to import sizeable quantity of magnesite to meet the country's demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of magnesite imported during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 and the amount of foreign exchange spent during the period;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from private enterprises to explore the possibility of finding raw magnesite in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The Silica content of indigenous magnesite is high and it is because of this that it cannot be used in special high quality refractories. Import of dead burnt magnesite (which is also termed as magnesite sinter) with silica content less than 4% is allowed under the open

General Licence. Import of dead burnt magnesite with silica content between 4% to 6% is permitted under the automatic licensing scheme and import of dead burnt magnesite with more than 6% silica is restricted. Small quantity of fused magnesite and non calcined magnesite are also imported.

(b) The total quantity of all kinds of magnesite imported and the amount of foreign exchange spent during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 was as follows :—

Year	Quantity	Value
1980-81	19,794 tonnes	Rs. 4.93 crores
1981-82	1,688 tonnes	Rs. 0.91 crores
1982-83	6,256 tonnes	Rs. 2.19 crores

(c) to (e). Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) which approved the geological programme of Geological Survey of India (GSI) received suggestions from a private enterprise for inclusion of programme of search and investigation for magnesite in Himalayan area in 1983-84 and Salem area in 1984-85 field season. The suggestions were discussed in CGPB meetings. Search and investigation for magnesite were included in GSI programme. Latest information indicates exploration of magnesite in CHALK hills area and SIRAVALLI area of Salem have been completed. Assessment of reserves is in progress. Investigation for magnesite is continuing in Alaknada valley.

#### Sanction of Liberalised Family Pension

328. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints from various quarters including pensioners' organisations pointing out alleged discrimination in sanction of Liberalised Family Pension under Central Civil Service Rules in the light of Supreme Court's verdict; and

(b) the steps Government are taking to ensure that Supreme Court's verdict is properly implemented in case of pensioners of all categories ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Some representations for the grant of benefits, given in the light of the Supreme Court's judgement to pre-31.3.1979 pensioners, to family pensioners also were received. The Judgement of the Supreme Court related to retirement pensions and has no nexus with family pension which is given in case of death of serving employees or pensioners. The Supreme Court Judgement in case of all other categories of pensioners has, however, been fully implemented.

#### Modernisation and Expansion of Steel Plants

329. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state in detail the latest position of the modernisation and expansion programme of the Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur and Kulti ?