

Evaluation of Diamond and Gold in Orissa

4171. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proper evaluation of gold, diamond and other precious stones available in Orissa have been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has carried out investigations for proper evaluation of gold and diamond in Orissa but proper evaluation of the gemstone resources were not carried out as the occurrences are small and highly sporadic in nature.

State Government of Orissa under UNDP assistance has undertaken exploration for diamond and coloured stones in different parts of the State. An area of 2070 Sq. Km. was covered through mapping and detailed sampling. The work was undertaken in districts of Angul/Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rajagada and Phulbani.

(b) to (d). Preliminary search for gold in Orissa was carried out in Gorumahisani-Badampahar belt, Mayurbhanj district, Bonai-Keonjhar belt in Keonjhar district and in laterites in Sukinda chromite field in adjoining areas in Jajpur district. Recently surveys have been carried out for locating source rock for diamond and to find out potential area for diamond occurrence in Mahanadi, ONG, TEL, Suktel-Udanti and IB river basins in parts of Kalahandi, Nuapara, Bolangir, Padampur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Orissa. Under the programme, interpretation of remote sensing data over 50,000 Sq.Kms., 225 Line Km. of geophysical survey using magnetic, resistivity and EM methods has already carried out and collected about 1000 stream sediment and other samples for various studies. Three programmes are proposed to be taken up during 1996-97 FS for diamond investigations in Orissa. Investigations for precious and semi precious stones in Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur and Bolangir districts of Orissa during 1979-80 to 1985-86 FS were also carried out.

Stalls at Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu

4172. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various stalls presently exists in Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government propose to award any licence for opening of stalls keeping in view the convenience of travelling public;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(e) whether any representation has been received for awarding licences for these stalls; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following facilities are available at present at Madurai Junction :

1. Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Departmental)
2. Non Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Licencee)
3. Fast Food Stall (Licencee)
4. Automatic Vending Machine (Licencee)
5. Apple Juice Stall (HPMC)
6. Fruit and flower stall (Licencee)
7. Travel and Trinity stall (Licencee)
8. Sarvodaya Book stall (Licencee)
9. Higgin Botham Book stall (Licencee)

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Proposal for one Fast food stall in the new west entry of the Madurai Junction is under process.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Out-of-Turn Allotment of Telephone Connections

4173. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out-of-turn allotment of telephone connections made since July 1, 1996 by the Government; category-wise, State-wise, and

(b) the criteria/procedure adopted for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of out of turn telephones allotted since 1.7.96 is 845 (eight hundred and forty five) by the Telecom Commission Headquarters excluding such telephone connection recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament from their respective quota of twenty five telephones in a calendar year. All the telephones have been allotted under non-OYT (General) category. The State-wise list is in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Such telephone connections from Telecom Commission Headquarters are now being allotted by a High Powered Committee in the light of the guidelines is given in the Statement-II attached.