

(c) if so, the serious efforts that have been made by the State Government as well as by the Department of Minerals to check the illegal activity and streamlining the trade;

d) whether the Union Government took a decision in 1996 to auction the mines on an experimental basis; and

e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to check the illegal trade of stones in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Flouride In Drinking Water

1344. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villagers are affected due to the presence of flouride contents in potable water in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the names of such villages which are affected by it;

(c) whether any funds have been provided during the current financial year in order to give respite to the people of flouride affected villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) As per reports of the State Governments, around 0.14 lakh habitations are affected with excess flouride in the water in the State of Rajasthan. The Government of India has been providing fund to the State Government for the implementation of schemes for providing safe drinking water. After 1.4.1998, states have been given full powers to deal with water quality issues including excess flouride.

[English]

#### Storage Facility for Defence Products

1345. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether safe storage facility is lacking in our ammunition and other explosives; and

(b) the steps, if any, being taken to provide safe storage facility for Defence products like ammunition,

bombs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of storage accommodation. However, within the constraints, all efforts have been made to keep the ammunition, safe and secure. For augmentation of storage accommodation in ammunition Depots, a number of projects have been approved and included in the Major Works Programme for 1998-99.

[Translation]

#### Sick Iron Ore Mines

1346. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick iron ore mines in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the reasons therefor alongwith the date from which these have been declared sick;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information available, there are no iron ore mines in Uttar Pradesh at present. Hence, the question of their being sick does not arise.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[English]

#### Setting up of Railway Workshop

1347. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no workshop of Railways under the East Coast Railway Zone except one at Mancheswar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up workshop at Berhampur under East Coast Railway; and

(c) if not, the place identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The existing workshops on Indian Railway have not yet been distributed to the newly created zones including the East Coast Zone.