

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been approached to make available land free of cost for setting up of a new Division at Guntur. Adequate funds shall be allotted to complete the work as soon as land is made available by State Government.

Utilisation of Railway Property at Bitragunta

5267. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge land, buildings and other property are lying unused at Bitragunta in South Central Railway: and

(b) if so, the plan of Railways to put this property to good use?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Addition and Alteration in Government Quarters

5268. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Pool quarters transferred to Lok Sabha Secretariat Pool on functional basis are maintained by CPWD and licence fee of these quarters are also deposited in the Government A/c No.0216 Housing-Receipt from Government Residential Building-General Pool Accommodation;

(b) whether additions and alterations is not done by CPWD on payment of 10% charges as is done in respect of Government Pool Quarters;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination; and

(d) the steps taken to enforce parity in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Lok Sabha Secretariat & Rajya Sabha Secretariat have been delegated powers vide this Ministry's letter No.11013/5/88-WI dated 11.3.97 to sanction works of additions/alterations in the residences allotted to Members of Parliament upto a value of Rs.30,000 in each case. On the recommendations of 'House Committee of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha' estimates exceeding the monetary ceiling of Rs.30,000 are sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.

In the case of accommodation allotted to Ministers, DG(W), CPWD has been delegated powers vide this Ministry's letter No.11013/5/88-WI dated 9.4.97 to sanction works upto a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh for carrying out additions/alterations. Over and above this monetary ceiling estimates are sanctioned by this Ministry with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.

In both the above cases the entire expenditure is borne by the Government and not by the allottee in any manner.

In the case of General Pool Accommodation the allottees are required to pay 10%, 20% or 100% of the cost of the works to be carried out at their request depending upon the nature of the work classified into three distinct categories in this Ministry's O.M. No.11014/22/90-W.3 dated 9.1.96.

[Translation]

Exploration of Mines

5269. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

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

(a) the different kinds of mineral reserves in each State;

(b) the steps taken to exploit this hidden mineral wealth;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare a policy and programme for the proper exploitation of mineral in Andhra Pradesh and other States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) A statement of mineral reserves in the country as on 1.1.96 and the States where these have been identified is attached.

(b) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder. In the country, already there were 2617 reporting mines in the year 1997-98 and they are exploiting the mineral resources. The total value of mineral production in the country (excluding atomic