

Manufacture of Refinery Plant

*788. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Kindar Lal:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rumania have offered help in setting up a plant for the manufacture of refinery equipment in India;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) to (c). A technical project report has been received from M/s. Industrial export of Rumania on the establishment of a project designed to manufacture, among other things, equipment for oil refineries. The report is under examination.

Fuel Consumption

*789. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Himatsingka:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken for substituting the wide-spread consumption of natural manure like cow-dung and agricultural wastes by soft coke with a view to diverting the former for improving land fertility in our present Grow More Food Drive;

(b) the steps taken for liberalising the existing licensing procedure for the opening of brick-kilns and soft coke depots for meeting the growing demand for bricks and domestic fuel in the country;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from Associations of producers of coal suggesting re-orientation of pattern of fuel consumption in accordance with the national resources; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction to the suggestions made and the difficulties listed therein?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Relaxation of control on the distribution of soft coke, liberalisation of licencing policy for opening of soft coke depots, emphasis on coal based industries, advice to State Governments for quick growing plantations and popularisation of cow-dung gas plants, are some of the measures already taken by the Government.

(b) State Government have been advised to liberalise policy and procedure for opening of new brick-kilns and soft coke depots.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Suggestions regarding re-orienting the pattern of fuel consumption and popularisation of soft coke and lower grades of coal even in rural areas and removal of transport restrictions are engaging the attention of the Government.

Economy in Higher Grade Coal

*790. Shri B. K. Das:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken to replace the use of higher grade coal, the known reserves of which are extremely limited, by those of lower grades, wherever possible, in the overall interests of our national economy;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for making greater use of lower grade coals, supplies of which are abundantly available in the country;

(c) whether any steps are proposed to be taken by Government to utilise the lower grade coal in place of metallurgical coal, as far as possible, by scientific research and by improvement in quality; and