

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

(d) the result of experiments conducted by the Central Fuel Research Institute in this regard?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) The grade-wise allocation of coal to different industries is regulated according to a schedule which has been drawn up after taking into account the grade of coal that the industry can use consistent with the type of furnace used in the industry or process. Further, inferior grades of coking coal are beneficiated, by washing, for use by metallurgical industries.

(b) In order to encourage the use of lower grades of coal, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) All new power stations are being designed to burn high ash coal;
- (ii) the distribution control over inferior grades of coal has been removed;
- (iii) licenses for opening brick kilns and soft coke depots are being issued liberally;
- (iv) the prices of grade II and grade III coal from the Bengal/Bihar coalfields have notified as "ceiling prices."

(c) and (d). The possibility of preparing metallurgical coke from coal which is now classed as non-coking is being examined.

Decontrol of Cement

***791. Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the statement made by him in the House on the 18th November, 1965 regarding Government's decision to decontrol cement and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Committee composed of Members of Parliament to watch over the working of the experiment of decontrol of cement;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the functions and powers of this Committee?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) to (c). Such a suggestion was made in the Informal Consultative Committee Meeting and in the Rajya Sabha. It is under consideration.

New York World Fair

***792. Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the extent of success achieved by the Indian pavilion in the sale of Indian goods at the New York World Fair which concluded on the 17th October, 1965;

(b) if so, which of the Indian goods attracted the foreigners, and what would be its impact on the export of these goods;

(c) the total sale of Indian goods at the shops of the Indian pavilion in the Fair; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on the Indian stall?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). The New York World's Fair closed on the 17th October, 1965. Judging from the interest shown by foreign visitors/importers for the import of Indian goods, it is expected that there has been a substantial increase in the sale of India goods to U.S.A. through the medium of this fair. The major items on which there was indications of bulk off-take and agency arrangements were, machine tools, cutting tools, cast iron pipe fittings, light engineering goods like knitting machines, stainless steel ware, cycle, sewing machines and canned sea foods and fruits, tea, cashewnuts, spices, coir and jute products, plastic goods, handicrafts and handloom products,