

sector. On conclusion of the deliberations of the meeting, a protocol was signed by both sides on 12th July, 1996.

(b) Following issues were discussed during the above meeting:

- (i) Review of the cooperation in Design and Construction.
- (ii) Up-dated technology in Mining.
- (iii) Deputation of Russian Experts.
- (iv) Modernisation of Selected Mines.
- (v) Evaluation of Mineral Deposits.
- (vi) Coal Slurry Transportation.

Closure of Coffee Marketing Board

*239. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to wind up the Coffee Marketing Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the Coffee consumers from exploitation due to uncontrolled exports of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government has only decided to liberalise the marketing of coffee by all growers through introduction of 100% Free Sale Quota from 1996-97 season. The Coffee Board will continue to exist.

(c) The production of coffee in the country is much more than domestic demand and only the surplus is exported. Further, export of coffee is regulated by an export permit system operated by the Board. Also, import of instant coffee including decaffeinated instant coffee in consumer packs is permitted on payment of applicable customs duty.

[Translation]

Demurrage charges in BCCL

*240. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the yearwise details of the amount spent by BCCL on the demurrage item during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for paying the demurrage;

(c) the details regarding item-wise demurrage paid during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the demurrage of items in BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). The expenditure incurred by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. under

the head "Demurrage" during the last three years was as under :

	(Rs. in lakhs) Provisional
1993-94	732.81
1994-95	679.56
1995-96	850.23

The demurrage is required to be paid when loading of rake is not completed within the permissible loading time allowed by the Railways. The reasons for such delay occurring occasionally inter-alia include the following :

- (i) Inadequate free time allowed for loading in sidings where manual loading takes place.
- (ii) Break down of equipment at loading point;
- (iii) Power failures affecting crushing of coal through feeder breakers;
- (iv) Less transportation of coal to the sidings due to break down of equipment and other reasons.

The record for item-wise payment of demurrage is not maintained by the coal company.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the coal company to reduce the incidence of payment of demurrage at the loading end :

- (i) Action is being taken to ensure that adequate stock is available at the loading sidings;
- (ii) Continuous monitoring of the loading at each of the sidings is undertaken to check the incidence of left behinds.
- (iii) Adequate and standby loading arrangements are being made to reduce the loading time.
- (iv) In case of mechanical failure of the loading system, intimation is being sent to the Railways for deferring the placement of rakes.
- (v) The link roads from the colliery to the sidings are being improved to reduce the transportation time and bottlenecks.

[English]

Closure of UP State Brushware Corporation Limited

2111. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State of Uttar Pradesh had decided to wind up or close down a Public Sector Undertaking namely "UP State Brushware Corporation Limited" Moradabad;