

(d) whether India has taken up this question with U.N. Secretary General who had recently visited India, Pakistan and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As far as Government are aware, no country in this region, excepting of course Pakistan, has officially welcomed the American move. Government believe that no country would favour such a development having negative effects on building durable peace in the sub-continent.

(d) Apart from other considerations, the U.N. Secretary General's visit to India took place before the announcement of the U.S. decision to lift embargo on arms supply to Pakistan; the question of discussing this matter with the U.N. Secretary General during his visit to the sub-continent therefore does not arise.

Demand and Production of Coal ..

6939. SHRI AMBESH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand for all varieties of coal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total production of all varieties of coal during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the total annual demand of coal in excess of the total annual production in the country; and

(d) the amount paid for importing coal during the last three years, year-wise to the foreign countries, country-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c).

The production of coal, yearwise, during the last three years has been as follows:

(Million tonnes)

1969-70	75.71
1970-71	72.95
1971-72	72.06

The demand for coal during each of these three years is not known, but there has been unsatisfied demand mainly due to transport difficulties. The production could have reached a higher level had there been adequate wagon availability.

(d) Mostly anthracite and specific type of hard coke, not available in the country, were being imported for meeting special requirements. The quantity and the value of import made during each of the last three years had been as follows:—

Year	Anthracite Quantity (Tonnes)	Coke Quantity (Tonnes)	Total value (Rs. lakhs)
1969-70	634	5035	28.05
1970-71 .	734	533	10.38
1971-72 .	963	4556	39.05

Coal and coke are imported mainly from U.S.A., West Germany, Canada, U.K. and Norway.

Wages of Salt Workers

6940. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the wages of the labourers employed in production of common salt by evaporation process on the West Coast of India;

(b) whether they are at par with minimum wages; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?