

1	2	3
1982-83	24,687	13,350 (Provisional)
1983-84	47,989	6,202 (Provisional)
1984-85	54,656 (Estimated)	1,406 (Estimated)

Shortage of Coal in Tea Gardens of North Bengal

5969. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has received complaints about acute/shortage of coal in the tea gardens of North Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for inadequate supply, if any ;

(d) the annual requirement of coal in the tea gardens in North Bengal and the extent to which these requirements were fulfilled during 1984 ;

(e) the trend of supplies during the period between January and April 1985 as compared to the supplies during the corresponding period in 1983 and 1984 ; and

(f) the steps taken proposed to meet the full requirements of the North Bengal tea gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Poor performance in public sector and specially in steel plants.

5971. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS

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

(a) whether attention of his Ministry has been drawn to news item in the 'Financial Express' of 2nd March, 1985 wherein it has been stated that the Chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board stated that reason for poor performance in public sector and specially in steel plants is due to political interference in the affairs of management ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Billimoria has made these observations in his personal capacity. Government does not agree with his views that the functioning of the public sector is impeded by any so called interference as Government does not unnecessarily interfere in the functioning of the public sector. SAIL plants have not been able to operate at their rated capacities mainly because of constraints of adequate and the right quality of coking coal, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power supply, obsolete technology and ageing of plants. To achieve the rated capacity, efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of right quality, improvement in raw materials, better maintenance and technological upgradation by refurbishing and revamping of the steel plants.