

(c) since when exports have been increased to those countries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In regard to North America, India's exports have shown an appreciable increase since 1983, especially to USA. The main items of export to USA are crude petroleum, textiles, diamonds, cashew nuts, engineering items and leather and leather products. The main items of export to Canada are gems and jewellery, textiles, leather and leather products, tea, coffee, carpets, rugs and marine products.

In the case of East Europe there has been marked growth between 1975 and 1984. The main items of export to East Europe are agricultural products, chemicals and allied products, leather and leather manufactures, textiles, engineering goods and ores and minerals.

Licences granted for mining of coke in Bihar

1563. **SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences for mining of coke have been granted to certain firms of Bihar during the period January, 1980 to 15 March, 1985;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such firms with validity of licence in each case;

(c) whether certain firms in private sector are doing mining of coal without any appropriate licence;

(d) if so, the names and addresses of such firms and the exact date in each

case from which these firms have been functioning without licence;

(e) the action Government have taken or propose to take against firms as in (c) above to prevent this unlicensed mining of coke;

(f) whether a proposal to nationalise the private mining is under consideration of Government; and

(g) if so, the criteria of compensation proposed to be given in each case as in (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (g). Coke is not mined and as such the question of granting permission to mine coke does not arise.

The Coal mines in the country were nationalised in two stages. By the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 the coking coal mines and coke oven plants which were known to exist were nationalised w.c.f. 1-5-1972. By the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, all other coal mines were nationalised on 1-5-1973. In 1976, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended terminating all the private mining leases and prohibiting grant of leases in favour of persons other than those authorised by the Acts. Mining of coal by unauthorised persons in violation of the provisions of the Act was made cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment extending to 3 years and fine extending to Rs. 20,000. In violation of the provisions of the Acts certain persons surreptitiously indulge in illegal coal mining in certain areas. As the private mining in coal is prohibited and illegal, the question of nationalisation of such operations does not arise. Rather the coal companies and the State Governments' law enforcing agencies take concerted punitive and preventive action and book the offenders as and when detected.