

Decision to de-reserve mining areas for exploitation by private sector

3717. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to de reserve some mining areas for exploitation by the private Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the decision arrived at;

(c) the names of the private sector companies that will be permitted to exploit the mining areas;

(d) the location of the mining areas de-reserved, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the particulars of the mines proposed to be given to private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Pursuant to the recommendation of the Mineral Advisory Council a Committee has been constituted in Department of Mines to consider the question of de-reserving some mining areas for exploitation in private sector.

(b) to (e) The detailed information regarding the names of private companies permitted to exploit the mining areas, location of mining areas de-reserved and the particulars of mines proposed to be given to private sector will be available only after the Committee submits its report.

[Translation]

Proposal to set up industrial units in public sector for development of re-rolling industry

3718. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether rerolling industry is the main source of supply of iron rods and rolled rods;

(b) if so, the percentage of production of rods and rolled rods made by this industry;

(c) whether Government propose to set up industrial units in public sector for further development of rerolling industry;

(d) if so, the names of the places where these units are proposed to be set up;

(e) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up an industrial unit of rerolling in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steel rerolling industry meets about 75% of the requirements of bars and rods in the country.

(c) to (g) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Changes in guidelines for distribution of pig iron

3719. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to ensure proper distribution of available quantity of pig-iron and to meet domestic requirement of iron, some changes have been made in the guidelines laid down for its distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether poor people are being benefited by these changes;

(d) if so, the benefits being received by them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pig-Iron

produced by integrated steel plants is distributed in terms of the Joint Plant Committee distribution guidelines. These guidelines were last issued in 1980 and are under review.

(c) to (e) Pig-Iron is being supplied to foundries and other industrial consumers like sleepers manufacturers. It is an industrial item of use and there is no direct consumer application as far as poor people are concerned

[English]

Demand for coal

3720. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group on energy policy in 1979 had projected the demand for coal in India by the year 2000 to rise to 427 million tonnes on a conservative scale;

(b) if so, whether the latest exercise done by Coal India Limited drastically prunes the estimates;

(c) if so, whether it puts upper limit for that year at 380 million tonnes and the lower at 340 million tonnes;

(d) if so, the main factors listed in regard to drastic cut, and

(e) the efforts being made to see that the policy in 1979 continues ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Working Group on Energy Policy had, in 1979, assessed that at the optimal level forecast, the coal requirement in 2000 AD would be 427 million tonnes. CIL in its latest assessment has estimated the requirement at the optimal level forecast as 380 MT. of the total 380 MT, the demand on CIL has been estimated at 340 MT. The principle reason for the downward revision of coal demand is the non-attainment of expected coal consumption levels by different sectors of the economy during the intervening period of five years after the report of

Working Group on Energy Policy was published in 1979 and growth in the share of the service sector in the GNP. The latest assessment made by CIL is based on the facts now available. It is subject to further revision in case the factors influencing the coal consumption change in future.

Indian engineering exporters pushed out of african market

3721. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian engineering exporters have been pushed out of the African market by countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan;

(b) if so, whether the main reasons for this is because these countries are offering goods cheaper by 5 to 15 per cent;

(c) whether in 1983-84 India's engineering exports to Africa amounted to Rs. 205 crores out of the country's total engineering exports to about Rs. 1,170 crores and in 1984-85 is estimated at Rs. 200 crores of the total estimated figure of Rs. 1,300 crores;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to that Indian engineering exports are not further pushed out from the African market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Many Indian engineering goods are facing competition in African countries from a number of countries including China, South Korea and Taiwan.

(d) Apart from competition from other countries, the main reason for decline in exports of engineering goods to African countries is the payment difficulties faced by certain East and West African countries.