

response to the advertisements of the Oil Marketing Companies. Recommendations of the OSBs are not referred to the Government for approval. These are sent by them to the concerned Oil Companies for issue of Letters of Intent. Till March, 1995, the OSB (Rajasthan) had recommended merit panels for 80 retail outlet dealerships.

Parallel Marketing of LPG

3488. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the States where parallel marketing of all petroleum products have started;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to expand the parallel marketing of LPG and other petroleum products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Under the Parallel Marketing System the Government has allowed the private agencies to import and market kerosene, LPG and LSHS by using/setting up their own import facilities and distribution network. The State-wise details of parallel marketing of all such products are not maintained by the Government. However, during 1994-95, parallel marketeers imported 521.6 TMT of SKO and 41.7 TMT of LPG through various ports in the country and these are marketed by the parallel marketeers in different states as per their own decision.

Public Sector Oil Companies are assisting private agencies with storage and handling facilities. Further, the Government is encouraging parallel marketeers to develop their own infrastructure facilities like port facilities, storage, bottling plants, etc.

Requirement of Coal

3489. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated annual requirement of coking coal in the country;

(b) the amount of coking coal produced in the country, during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount of coking coal imported in the country during each of the last three years;

(d) the average CIF price of the imported coking coal and the average ex-washery price of the coking coal indigenously produced;

(e) whether there are any projects in hand for augmenting the production capacity of coking coal in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Total quantity of washed coking coal required by the steel plants in the country during the year 1995-96 is estimated at 23.23 million tonnes.

(b) Total indigenous production of raw coking coal of all varieties during the last 3 years was as follows :

Year	Raw coking coal production in all varieties (million tonnes)
1992-93	45.36
1993-94	45.06
1994-95, (Prov.)	44.25

(c) Integrated steel plants being the main importers of low ash coking coal, imported 6.75 million tonnes of coking coal in 1992-93; 7.08 million tonnes in 1993-94 and 8.47 million tonnes in 1994-95 (provisional).

(d) Approximate CIF cost of coking coal imported by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1994-95 was Rs. 1900/- per tonne. Current average ex-washery price of washed coal from Coal India Limited's source is about Rs. 1260/- per tonne.

(e) and (f). For augmenting production of raw coking coal, 13 coal projects (total capacity 6.81 million tonnes) are in various stages of implementation in Coal India Limited.

Children in Observation Homes

3490. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of children kept in the Observation Homes in the country, State-wise;

(b) the facilities provided to the children in these Homes; and

(c) the amount spent by Union Government on these Homes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) There are a total number of 14,555 children residing in the Observation Homes. The State-wise statement showing the number of inmates residing/maintained in various Observation Homes is enclosed Statement.

(b) The children are provided with various facilities like accommodation food, clothing, bedding, education and vocational training for their rehabilitation in the Observation Homes.

(c) During the last three years, the following amounts have been spent by the Union Government on