

and workers who may be affected will be considered by BIFR.

Import of Coal

4507. SHRI JAGMEETSINGH BRARA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to import coal due to non-availability of high-quality coal;

(b) if so, the average annual requirement of such high quality coal in the country;

(c) whether Coal-India-Ltd. propose to make available this high-quality coal in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the likely fall in the import of coal on the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Indian coal resources by their very nature are of high ash content and inferior quality. The proportion of good grades of coal resources is only about 25% that too are localised in Bihar-Bengal and Central India Coalfields. While other industrial consumers have been able to adjust the combustion equipment to suit the indigenously available grades of coal, the steel plants want lower ash content in the Coking coal for coke production. It is in this context that out of average requirement of about 20 million tonnes of washed coking coal per annum the steel plants have been importing about 25% of their total requirements of coking coal for the purpose of blending low ash imported coal with high ash indigenous coal.

(c) to (e). Some of the steps being taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal, inter alia, include:-

- (i) increase in raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines;

(ii) restoration of coking coal sources with which were delinked in 1984-85 from washeries on account of quality consideration;

(iii) commissioning of two new washeries, one each at Madhuband & Kedla for increasing the existing washing capacity;

(iv) modification of the existing coking coal washeries by implementation of recommendations of the Altekar Committee to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal;

(v) coking coal mines in Meghalays & Assam are being identified to make available increased quantities of low ash coking coal.

With implementation of these steps, the import of coking coal by steel plants is likely to come down progressively.

Thermal Power Based on Atomic Power

4508. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up thermal power plants based on atomic power;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the capacity invested therein and the generating capacity of each;

(c) whether a few atomic power plants are not functioning properly; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). While the primary heat energy is from uranium fuel housed in the reactor in the case of atomic