

steel plates/sheets required for the manufacture and maintenance of railway wagons/coaches. These supplies to the Railways have been progressively on the increase as the following statement will show :

1982-83	96,700 tonnes
1983-84	1,23,300 tonnes
1984-85	1,27,900 tonnes
(Provisional)	

SAIL developed weather resistance steel which is equivalent to railway's corten steel for the manufacture of railway wagons. This steel will require further development and tests before it can be supplied to the Railways on a regular basis.

**Fire in Coal handling Plant in Jayant
Coal Mine in Sidhi District of
Madhya Pradesh**

5207. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a loss of one crore rupees has been suffered due to mysterious fire in the Rs. 18 crore coal handling plant under construction in Jayant Coal Mine in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the causes of this fire;

(c) whether Government have ordered an enquiry into it;

(d) if so, the time by which this enquiry is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). On 23rd March, 1985 at about 9.00 PM there was an incident of fire in the main conveyor system of the Coal Handling Plant at the Jayant Opencast mine in the Singrauli coalfield in Sidhi District (Madhya Pradesh). This part of the coal handling plant is being constructed by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi (a Public Sector Enterprise) on turnkey basis. The Central Coalfields Limited have set up an enquiry Committee to investigate into the cause of fire and to assess the extent of loss due to fire and to suggest remedial measures. The

details will be known after the enquiry report is available.

**Better Trade Relations between Malaysia
and India**

5208. SHRI HARIHAR SOKEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Malaysia has expressed its desire to narrow down the existing trade gap between the two countries (India and Malaysia);

(b) whether Malaysia proposes to import more and more items from India for that purpose;

(c) if so, the items on which Malaysia proposes to establish better trade relationship; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(c) and (b). During his visit to India in March 1985, the Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries stated that Malaysia would explore the possibilities of additional imports from India, including items like wheat, iron ore, rice, and manufactured goods.

[Translation]

Survey of Mineral Deposits in Bihar

5209. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which mineral deposits in Bihar State have been surveyed;

(b) the district-wise results of such surveys; and

(c) whether Union Government have a proposal for intensive survey of mineral resources available in abundance in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Based on the investigation carried out for various minerals in Bihar by Geological Survey of India and State Government, the estimated reserves of major minerals in various districts of Bihar are furnished in the statement attached.