

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard by the Ministry; and

(e) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e). Assistance for acquisition of ships by shipping companies in India from abroad is granted by commercial banks in the country mainly under the scheme known as 'Ship Acquisition From Abroad Under New Scheme' (SAFAUNS). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it does not have ready information in regard to precise amount of loans given to shipping industry being nursed by Indian Banks. However, as per the information furnished by the Reserve bank of India, upto 31-12-1984, a sum of Rs. 470 crores has been disbursed to 23 shipping companies by the commercial banks in the country under the aforesaid scheme. Due to recessionary trends in the shipping industry as a whole, some of the shipping companies are finding it difficult to adhere to the schedule of repayment of their liabilities to the banks. While no enquiry into all the cases of these loans has been made, whenever any specific allegation is made the same is got looked into.

W.C.L. decision to Boost Coal Production

2934. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a massive effort to boost coal production Western Coalfields Ltd. has decided to invest at least Rs. 1,600 crores for excavation of new coal mines and expansion and upgradation of the existing mines;

(b) whether Western Coalfield Limited has decided to double their annual production capacity from 46 million tonnes in 1984-85 to well over 90 million tonnes by 1989-90; and

(c) if so, whether any assistance and help is being provided by Union Government to achieve this aim ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the 7th Five Year Plan have recommended an investment of over Rs. 1,700 crores during the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90) for increasing the coal production of W.C.L. from present level of 46 m.t. (Provisional) in 1984-85 to about 65 million tonnes by 1989-99. Government will provide necessary financial support to the coal company and any other help that may be necessary in achieving the production targets finally fixed by the Government.

Shortage of Steel

2935. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the exports and imports of steel in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). For the year 1985-86, the Working Group on Iron and Steel has projected a demand of 11.2 million tonnes of finished steel in the country against an indigenous availability of 9.9 million tonnes. It is normal practice to allow adequate import of various items to meet the needs of the engineering industry and other users.

(c) Steel exports and arrivals of canalised steel imports through SAIL were as under :

Year	Canalised Imports Quantity (in million tonnes)	Canalised Exports Quantity (in million tonnes)
1982-83	1.401	0.011
1983-84	0.656	0.024
1984-85 (Provisional)	0.700	0.153