

Demand and Supply of Pig Iron

*675. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply assessed for pig iron in the country during 1989-90; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the gap in demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). For 1989-90 the demand of pig iron has been assessed at about 1.75 million tonnes. Domestic production is likely to be about 1.6 million tonnes. The balance requirements will have to be met through imports.

[Translation]

Purchase of fighter Jets by Pakistan from China and Australia

6180. SHRI S.D. SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'Punjab Kesari', dated 12 February, 1989 under the caption "Pak Vayu Sena Ke Liye Australia Va Cheen Se 125 bam Varshak kharidega";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the country's security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's Security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

[English]

Appointment of Unskilled Labourers in M.E.C. Limited Madhya Pradesh

6181. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Bangalore, Madhya Pradesh, has appointed unskilled labourers on temporary basis at the rate of Rs. 14.75 per day;

(b) if so, the details of such labourers working at the above project;

(c) whether the wages are at par with the National Coal Wage Agreement-III of November, 1983; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 122 unskilled labourers are employed in Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) at its Bangalwar project at Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. MECL has its own wage-structure which is as per settlement with the recognised Union arrived at as a result of conciliation proceedings by Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The Company has reported that as per Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, wages as per Settlement or Award or as per Minimum Wages Act, can be paid to its workers. Wages as per National Coal Wage Agreement-III of November, 1983, will be payable to MECL workmen, only when they