

Any individual may subscribe to the Fund any amount not less than Rs. 100 and not more than Rs. 20,000 in a year. An account opened under this scheme can be closed after the expiry of 15 years from the end of the year in which the initial subscription was made. Interest is allowed at the rate notified by the Central Government from time to time. There is provision for withdrawals and loans from the Fund subject to the prescribed limits and conditions.

Affect on Steel Plant due to inadequate supply of coking coal

4529. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI A. C. GEORGE:

SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether and to what extent the steel plants Plant-wise in the country have been affected as a result of delayed and on inadequate supply of coking coal this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): The aggregate production of saleable steel from the integrated steel plants during the period, April–November, 1978, was 4.266 million tonnes. This was lower than the production during the corresponding period in the previous year by 5.7 per cent.

The production has been adversely affected by several factors such as shortage and frequent restrictions/interruptions in the supply of power, certain problems relating to supplies of coking coal to the steel plants (both in terms of quantity and quality), indifferent industrial relations in some of the plants and unprecedented rains and floods in West Bengal in September, 1978 resulting in the flooding of coalfields as well as the Durgapur Steel Plant and affecting the rail movement. It is

not possible, however, to quantify the extent of loss in production attributable to each one of these facts.

Negotiations with China

4530. SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

DR. RAMJI SINGH:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the stages of negotiations between India and China after cancellation of his visit to that country; and

(b) whether the recall of the present Indian Ambassador, Mr. Narayanan has anything to do with these negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Following the postponement of the visit owing to the illness of the Foreign Minister discussions have taken place for mutually convenient dates for the visit. Fresh dates of the visit are yet to be decided upon.

(b) Ambassador K. R. Narayanan left Peking in the normal course on reaching the age of retirement.

खनिज पदार्थों के लिये बिहार को दया गया स्वामित्व

4532. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में खान से प्रति वर्ष निकाले जाने वाले खनिज पदार्थों का औसत मूल्य कितना है तथा उसके स्वामित्व के रूप में बिहार को कितनी धनराशि दी जाती है ;