

of the equity investment of the company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it would be a departure from the previous policy of Government; if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A copy of the Press Note dated the 28th October, 1980 detailing the facility for investment in the country by oil exporting developing countries is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1480/81]. It would be clear from this that an attempt has been made to create a facility within the framework of the existing investment policy of the Government.

**Import of Coal from Canada and Australia**

**1603. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government were actively considering a proposal to enter into a long term contract for import of two to five million tonnes of coal annually from Canada and Australia;

(b) if so, the decisions taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the proposal?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c). A suggestion has been made to the Government that in the interest of conservation of our limited reserves of coking coal and to supplement the inadequate supplies of the indigenous coking coal to the integrated steel plants, we may import coking coal having low ash content, on a long term basis. Government have not taken any decision in the matter.

**Increase in smuggling into Punjab across Indo-Pak Border**

**1604. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming increase in smuggling of opium, arms and other commodities into Punjab from across the Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the details and value of goods seized during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken, by Government to check the smuggling?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA):** (a) and (b). Government have no information whether there is any increase in the smuggling of goods into Punjab from across the Indo-Pakistan border. However, Government have information regarding the items that are sensitive to being smuggled, and the value of such goods seized during the six-months period May 1980 to October 1980 while being attempted to be smuggled, into Punjab from across the Indo-Pakistan border, which are as follows:—

Item	Approximate Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Gold . . . . .	2.60
2. Fire arms . . . . .	2.29
3. Opium . . . . .	0.95
4. Indian currency . . . . .	0.90
5. Watches . . . . .	0.88

(c) Anti-smuggling measures along the Indo-Pakistan border have been intensified and the Customs authorities, State Police and Border Security Force in the region have been alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling across the border.