

The provisions made for taxation at Rs. 13.93 lakhs against Rs. 11.94 lakhs worked out above is higher.

The accuracy of these figures will be verified during the course of regular assessment proceedings which is pending.

Import of Coking Coal from Australia, U.S.A. and Canada

3379. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the element of freight involved in deals for import of coking coal from Australia, U.S.A. and Canada and its economies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The freight rates per long ton of coking coal imported from Australia, Canada and USA will be around US \$ 35.45 and 54 respectively.

Use of low ash high grade imported coking coal in blend with indigenous coal results in a reduction of coke ash, coke rate and slag rate, increasing at the same time the production and productivity of the blast furnace. Therefore, notwithstanding the relatively higher cost of imported coking coal, its use in the steel plants has been found to be economically advantageous.

Problems of the Aluminium Foil Industries

3380. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the problems of the Aluminium foil industries of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have a proposal for taking immediate steps to nationalise the existing excise structure and reformulate aluminium foil import policy; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI

PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The aluminium foil manufacturers have represented that they are facing resistance to sales of their products because of lower price of imported foils as well as that of substitutes for foils manufactured in the country.

(b) and (c). The matter is being examined and if necessary, suitable action would be taken by Government.

Tea Centres Abroad

3381. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved some schemes to make tea centres abroad economically viable and increase the export of tea; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme and locations of the centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A joint venture is being set up between the Tea Board and the Hotel Corporation of India, a public sector undertaking, for running the Tea Centres of the Tea Board at London, Sydney and Cairo, which will utilise the professional expertise of the Hotel Corporation for running these centres as economically viable units while fulfilling the basic promotional role for which these centres were set up.

Evasion of Central Excise by a Firm Producing Video Cassette Recorder

3382. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI H. N. GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Revenue Intelligence have detected large scale tax-evasion of Central Excise by a firm producing Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) recently;

(b) if so, full details thereof; and